



Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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Monday
30 April 1990

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Central African Republic

Students Support Bangui Teachers' Strike

AB2604113690 Paris AFP in English 0108 GMT
26 Apr 90

[Text] Bangui, April 25 (AFP)—Schoolchildren in the capital of the Central African Republic joined University of Bangui students Wednesday in a solidarity stay-away with striking teachers, an informed source said. Students erected barricades along the Avenue des Martyrs, near the campus, and visited schools on Wednesday to ask children to join them in the solidarity protest.

Some staff at the Bangui General Hospital also went on strike in a protest against a three-month delay in pay, the source added.

University staff, represented by the Higher Education Union SYNESUP, began a strike Monday calling for housing grants and the re-establishment of benefits worth up to 20 per cent of their pay. The maximum monthly salary of a university professor is about 110,000 CFA francs (390 dollars) a month.

The unrest comes less than a month after about 50 trainees with university and college diplomas marched through the capital to call for full civil service posts. Some of them said they had served as trainees in different government departments for up to eight years.

Observers said that sporadic discontent over long delays—sometimes of several months—in the payment of salaries has flared into more extensive protest in the recent weeks.

Chad

Ibn Oumar Seeking More French Support

LD2704145190 Paris International Service in French
1230 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] Hissein Habre is calling for a holy war against Libya, nothing less, on the occasion of the 'Id [al-Fitr] feast. As a matter of fact, the Chadian head of state did not have strong enough words to describe the one he has qualified as a devil, who has Islam only in the mouth but never in the heart or mind.

Hissein Habre again accused Colonel al-Qadhdhafi of wanting to undertake real slavery dealing measures against blacks, notably from Chad but also other places. Listen:

[Begin Habre recording] In the face of the situation, Chad must first count on itself, and at this stage, we are right to oppose our enemy, the slavery-dealer regime of Tripoli, in a holy war. [end recording]

These were words transmitted by the Chadian national radio.

For his part, the chief of Chadian diplomacy, Acheikh Ibn Oumar is in Paris at this moment for talks with French officials, notably on the fighting in the east of

Chad, and the difficulties met by Ndjamenat at the military level. Jean Karim Fall has asked Acheikh Ibn Oumar why his government is always accusing the Libyans, seeming to forget that there are opponents of Hissein Habre among them Chadians. Here are some explanations given by the Chadian foreign minister who in the past was, one should remember, one of the rebel leaders who had sought refuge in Libya:

[Begin recording] [Ibn Oumar] Libya is not only implicated but is directly engaged in an aggression against us. The forces that attacked us recently were, as far as manpower is concerned, recruited from the camps of the Islamic Legion in Libya. They were trained by the Libyans, armed and equipped with Libyan hardware, transported to Sudan by the Libyans, and launched against us on the basis of Libyan operational instructions.

[Fall] One is currently witnessing a rapprochement between Paris and Tripoli. Do you regret this rapprochement?

[Ibn Oumar] Not only do we regret this rapprochement, but we have also expressed our concern. Beyond this, we believe that the Libyans feel that the vigilance of the friends of Chad has relaxed a little, and thus they believe that the time is favorable for committing an aggression against us, without punishment.

[Fall] The chief of Chadian diplomacy does not hide the fact that he has asked for, and, he thinks, obtained a reinforcement of the French military support for his country.

[Ibn Oumar] The FANT, the Chadian National Forces, have the capability and determination to stop any aggression as they did in the past. What we lack, above all, is equipment and certain technical support. However, while we do not ask the French units to fight on our side or in lieu of us when it is neither useful nor necessary, we do think that a reinforcement of the Epervier deployment [codename for the deployment of French troops in Chad] will have a more important deterrent role, just as trimming down this deployment has surely contributed to encouraging the Libyan aggression against us.

[Fall] Regarding the reinforcement of the Epervier deployment, have you received reassurances from the French side?

[Ibn Oumar] You know that these kind of problems cannot be settled in a few hours of discussions, but generally we have had the assurance that efforts will be made on the French side to enable Chad to keep intact, or even reinforce, its deterrent and defense capabilities. [end recording]

Government Issues Communique on Casualties

AB2704214490 London BBC World Service in English
1830 GMT 27 Apr 90

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Chad's President Hissein Habre is becoming more and more heated in his talk about Libya. It follows recent clashes along the border with Sudan. Habre claims Libyan forces of the Islamic Legion are involved and accuses Colonel al-Qadhdhafi of violating last year's

peace agreement. Yesterday, President Habre said Col. al-Qadhdhafi was a devil with Islam only in his mouth, not in his heart, nor in his mind. And, he is also rattling sabers and talking of a holy war. From Ndjamen, Mahamat Adamu telexed this report.

[Begin studio announcer recording] In his message, at yesterday's celebration to mark the end of Ramadan, Hissein Habre made a call to all Chadian Muslims, encouraging them to preach the jihad, the sacred war against Libya. He was addressing representatives of the Muslim community who had come to give him their best wishes. The Chadian president stated that the recommencement of the battles on the Chad-Sudan frontier between the Chadian Army and members of the Islamic Legion, demonstrated that the racist regime of Tripoli has not given up the desire to annex Chad. Hissein Habre, who praised the power of the army of faith, demanded that the faithful preached the sacred war against Libyan oppression everywhere: in the mosques, in the villages, in the foyers, and public places.

This regime, he added, killed the imams, burned the holy books, followed and maltreated everywhere those who are faithful to God, his prophets, and the scriptures. Denouncing, once again, the complicity of Sudan, the head of the Chadian state confirmed that Tripoli had succeeded in bribing a certain number of Sudanese officials, who, according to him, had agreed to place part of their territory, i.e. Darfur, for availability to al-Qadhdhafi for their purposes in their war with Chad.

On another note, the Chadian Army communicated today at 1242 GMT a definitive evaluation of the fighting, between 18 and 28 April, between the Forces of the National Chad Army and two columns of the Islamic Legion in the Kufra Province in Libya. In this account, the Chadian Army confirmed that it had killed 736, taken 328 enemy prisoners, and mentioned, for the first time, its own losses, which amounted to 67 dead and 102 wounded. Amongst the equipment recovered was more than a hundred vehicles, a quantity of heavy duty weapons, including cannons, mortars, and other high quality munitions. [end recording]

Army High Command Communique on Recent Fighting

AB2704215890 Ndjamen Domestic Service in French 2130 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] Seven hundred twenty-six died, 328 were taken prisoner, and a large quantity of war equipment was seized or destroyed. This is the final account of the 18-20 April fighting between our valiant National Armed Forces and the armed bandits of the Islamic Legion.

Chad Diplomat Reports New Libyan Troop Movements

AU3004075490 Paris AFP in English 2343 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] Paris, April 29 (AFP)—Libya has sent a new detachment of troops from a desert base towards north-eastern Sudan, from where the force is likely to attack Chad, the Chadian Embassy here charged Sunday.

The Chadian statement followed claims by Chad's French-backed government on Friday that its forces had killed 736 members of Libya's international Islamic Legion in fighting near the border with Sudan earlier this month.

Chad has recently accused Libya, which it fought in a desert war between 1983 and 1984, of sending Islamic Legion troops into the north-east of the country via Sudan's Darfur province.

The Paris embassy said the new troop movements, from a base at al-Kufrah in south-eastern Libya, were "a new proof of Libya's will to break up and annex Chad."

Credit Council Views Economy, Financial Situation

AB2704104290 Ndjamen Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Excerpts] As the saying goes, when the cotton sector performs well, all is well with Chad. To put it simply, when cotton is healthy, the Chadian economy is also healthy. This was the observation made by the National Credit Council at its meeting yesterday at the local head office of the Bank of Central African States under the chairmanship of Finance and Computerization Minister Ngarnayal Mbailemdana. [passage omitted]

Yesterday, under the chairmanship of the minister of finance and computerization, the National Credit Council examined the domestic and international economic and financial situation, on the basis of which the council noted the favorable trends in the world economy and its effects on the home situation, notably, its favorable influence on the performance of cotton prices which, according to a Finance Ministry communique, constitutes a decisive factor in the continuation of the recovery efforts embarked upon in 1988. The communique further stated that the consolidation of the current adjustment process would depend, basically, on the performance of the cotton sector, the mainstay of Chad's economy.

In the monetary sector, the situation is characterized by an annual doubling of net external assets, which increased from 11 billion [currency not specified] as of 31 December 1988 to 22.5 billion as of 31 December 1989. Domestic credit, however, fell considerably as the figure fell from over 168 billion francs as of 31 December 1988 to over 61.5 billion as of 31 December 1989, thus showing a 10.12 percent fall. Money supply was around 70.6 billion [currency not specified] in 1987, which basically reflects the same picture as that given by the National Monetary Committee on the monetary situation. The Council then examined the 1988 activity reports of the National Credit Council and the Professional Association of Banks, which showed an improvement in the banking system, the Finance Ministry communique further stated. After examining the document prepared by its General Secretariat on the problems of financing Chad's economy in general and, especially, on the constraints of obtaining credit, the mobilization of savings, the high incidence of nonreimbursement of loans and the difficulties encountered in retrieving claims, the council recommended the establishment of an ad hoc committee to

undertake a profound study of some of the issues raised and submit recommendations on short- and medium-term reform measures. [passage omitted]

Equatorial Guinea

New Envoys to USSR, Cameroon Appointed

AB2704102290 Paris AFP in French 1448 GMT
23 Apr 90

[Summary] Malabo, 23 Apr (AFP)—Equatorial Guinea's former ambassador to Cameroon, Mr. Policarpo Monsuy Mba, has been appointed ambassador to the Soviet Union after a decision by President Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, official sources announced in Malabo today. In addition, Mr. Alfredo Abeso Nvono, a former agriculture minister, has been appointed ambassador to Cameroon.

Gabon

Oye-Mba Replaces Mebiame as Prime Minister

AB2704192190 Paris AFP in French 1857 GMT
27 Apr 90

[Text] Libreville, 27 Apr (AFP)—Gabonese President Omar Bongo this evening announced the resignation of Leon Mebiame, prime minister of the Gabonese Government, in a televised message to the nation. He also announced the appointment of Casimir Oye-Mba as new prime minister and head of government. Mr Oye-Mba has been charged with forming the new Gabonese Government.

Further on New Prime Minister

AB2804095990 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French
0730 GMT 28 Apr 90

[Text] The Gabonese head of state, Omar Bongo, yesterday afternoon entrusted to Casimir Oye-Mba, the new prime minister, the task of forming the next government which be responsible for leading Gabon on the road to democracy until the multiparty system is effectively established.

Casimir Oye-Mba has replaced Leon Mebiame who has resigned. The latter has so far been considered one of the pivots of Gabonese political society because, after serving as vice president of the government in 1968, he became prime minister and head of government on 22 August 1981. President Omar Bongo paid glowing tribute to his companion and said that although he understood his resignation, he has decided, while waiting for the scheduled reforms to be implemented, to entrust to him a special mission of utmost importance both inside and outside Gabon.

As for the new prime minister, Casimir Oye-Mba, like his predecessor Leon Mebiame, hails from the Estuary Province, whose main town is Libreville, the capital of Gabon. The 48-year-old prime minister has no past political involvements and has a reputation for profound integrity. He also has a solid reputation as an economic and financial

technician. He held the post of managing director and later, governor of the Bank of Central African States.

The appointment of a new prime minister in Gabon comes at a time when the country has experienced over three months of serious social upheavals which, on several occasions, resulted in riots and looting. President Omar Bongo recently convened a national conference which was attended by 74 political organizations, the majority of which was from the opposition. During this national conference, the participants decided to adopt a multiparty system. They also proposed the formation of a 15- to 20-member transitional government, as against about 40 members for the previous government, until multiparty legislative elections can be held.

New Cabinet Named 29 Apr

AB2904213490 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French
2000 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Presidential decree issued in Libreville on 29 April and read by Gabonese Prime Minister Casimir Oye-Mba—live or recorded]

[Text] By a decree issued by the president of the republic today, the composition of the government of the republic is as follows:

Prime minister and head of government	Casimir Oye-Mba
Minister of Public Works, Construction, and Territorial Administration	Zacharie Myboto
Minister of Justice and Keeper of the Seals	(Paul Mba-Bessolo)
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation	Ali Bongo
Minister of Commerce, Consumption, and Industry in Charge of Relations With Parliament	Jules Bourdes-Ogouliguende
Minister of Domains, Habitat, Urbanism and Housing	Henri Minko
Minister of National Defense, Veterans' Affairs, Mobile Security, and Immigration	Martin-Fidele Magnaga
Minister of Territorial Administration and Local Communities	Antoine Mboumbou-Miyakou
Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reform	(Mrs. Paulette Moussavou)
Minister of Finance, Budget, and Participation	Paul Toungui
Minister of Planning, Development and Economy	Marcel Doupamby-Matoka
Minister of Information, Posts and Telecommunications, and Government Spokesman	(Jean-Remy Pendy-Bouick)
Minister of Mines, Hydrocarbons, Energy, and Hydraulic Resources	Jean Ping

Minister of National and Higher Education and Scientific Research	Michel Anchouey
Minister of Public Health, Population, Social Affairs, and National Solidarity	(Perie Mba)
Minister of Labor, Human Resources, and Professionals Training	Thierry Moussavou
Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, and Rural Economy	(Andre Mbo-Bame)
Minister of Water and Forestry Resources and Environment	(Jean-Robert Ngoloungana)
Minister of Youth, Sports, Culture, and Popular Education in Charge of Francophone Affairs	(Pierre Claver Nzong)
Minister of Transport	(Pierre Ngendi Madela)
Minister of State Control and Parastatal Reforms	(Pepin Mongo Kodji)
Minister of Tourism, National Parks, and Leisure	(Thomas Didim Nzema)
Minister of Small- and Medium-Scale Enterprises and Cottage Industry	Mrs. (Jean-Theres Mboum-barinkoula)
Minister Delegate to the Prime Minister in Charge of Decentralization	(Timo Oyonaba)
Secretaries of State:	
Secretary of State to the Minister of Public Works, Construction, and Territorial Administration	Francois Nguma Owono
Secretary of State to the Minister of National and Higher Education and Scientific Research	(Jean-Pierre Madougou Boudianga)
Secretary of State to the Minister of Public Health, Population, Social Affairs, and National Solidarity	(Eugene Kacou Mayaga)
Secretary of State to the Minister of Youth, Sports, Culture, and Popular Education in Charge of Francophone Affairs	(Patrice Deng)
Secretary of State to the Minister of Transport	(Charles Mebane)

Ministerial Post Declined

AB3004101390 Paris AFP in French 2050 GMT
29 Apr 90

[Text] Libreville, 29 Apr (AFP)—Mr. Paul Mba Abbessole, the leader of a faction of the National Resistance Movement (MORENA "Lumberjacks"), appointed minister of justice and keeper of the seals in the new Gabonese Government, announced his refusal of this appointment yesterday evening.

Mr. Mba Abbessole, whose nomination had just been announced on television, called up the AFP bureau to express his surprise. In a communique handed over later to

AFP, he said that "he has never been consulted" and that he "therefore categorically declines this nomination."

Mr. Abbessole, a popular opposition member, had returned to Gabon at the end of last year at the invitation of President Bongo after 13 years exile in France. Having stated at the beginning of this year that he was prepared to work "within the presidential majority" system, he was disavowed by the other factions of his movement, notably by the "original" MORENA, whose representative, Mr. Simon Oyonno Aba'a, was appointed yesterday as minister delegate in charge of decentralization in the new government.

Sao Tome & Principe

Leaders of 1988 Coup Plot Amnestied

AB2504123090 Paris AFP in English 1217 GMT
25 Apr 90

[Text] Sao Tome, April 25 (AFP)—Sao Tome and Principe opposition leader Afonso Dos Santos and 35 of his men have been amnestied after serving less than a year of lengthy jail terms imposed for trying to oust President Manuel Pinto da Costa in March 1988.

They were jailed last August for from two to 21 years, with Mr. Dos Santos, head of a banned political party, getting 22 years. He was also ordered to pay 1.35 million dobras (12,800 dollars) to the families of three people killed when the coupmakers launched attacks from several of the island's beaches.

The president's office said the amnesty was part of the government's new policy unveiled at the end of last year to set up a multiparty system and call elections. The amnesty was notified as Mr. Da Costa left Wednesday for a week's private visit to Portugal, the former colonial power here.

Resistance Front Leader Wants Ban Lifted

AB2804100690 Paris AFP in French 0546 GMT
28 Apr 90

[Text] Sao Tome, April 28 (AFP)—Afonso dos Santos, who was released from prison on Tuesday under an amnesty granted by President Manuel Pinto da Costa, has said he wants his opposition party legalized ahead of elections. Mr. dos Santos told reporters here Friday that Parliament should lift a ban on his Resistance Front to allow it to take part in future elections in Sao Tome and Principe.

Mr. dos Santos and 35 of his men were freed on Tuesday after serving less than a year of lengthy jail terms imposed for staging a coup against Mr. da Costa in 1988. They were jailed in August for from two to 21 years, with Mr. dos Santos getting 22 years.

The president's office said the amnesty was part of the government's plan to set up a multiparty system and to call elections. Discussing the amnesty, Mr. dos Santos praised Mr. da Costa as "a moderate man of dialogue."

Ethiopia

Government Statement on New TPLF 'Offensive'

EA2804070990 Addis Ababa Domestic Service
in Amharic 1700 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] The Weyane group [Tigray People's Liberation Front, TPLF], which infiltrated northern Shewa during the week and was severely crushed by our revolutionary army and people's militia, with the participation and support of the inhabitants of the area, and at a time when the struggle being waged at Mitsiwa has reached a very decisive stage, has now opened up a new offensive front from Tigray to southern Eritrea, the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia State Council noted in a statement it issued today. The statement further notes that our revolutionary army and people's militia are making great efforts to counter this act. The full text of the statement will be read by Darios Modi.

[Darios] It is known that in order to counter the war of destabilization being waged in the northern part of our country, a great struggle has been waged by the determined sons and daughters of the Ethiopian people. During the past weeks, the so-called Shabiyyah [Eritrean People's Liberation Front, EPLF] secessionist group, which walked away from the forum designed to find a peaceful solution, has created a very dangerous situation without precedent, particularly due to the offensive it launched at Mitsiwa. Since Mitsiwa port and the Mitsiwa-Asmera road is the route used by development and consumer goods and materials required by our revolutionary army, it is clear that disrupting the movement means trapping the whole of Eritrea.

It is also clear that the downfall which would be brought about by trapping Eritrea would have an impact on the very existence on the whole of Ethiopia. Apart from its strategic importance for Ethiopian unity, Mitsiwa is a channel through which aid is delivered to drought-affected compatriots in northern Ethiopia. However, the secessionists have been disrupting the aid, looting and setting ablaze ships loaded with food aid and burning grain stored in the port. Thus, they have caused the people to perish through famine.

In order to counter the offensive launched by the secessionist group and avert the dangerous threat posed to our country's unity, the struggle has reached a momentous and decisive stage through sacrifice being made by our revolutionary army and people's militia.

It is known that heavy damage is being caused by the war waged by the secessionist group by coordinating its forces with that of its twin, the Weyane, which it created to use as an instrument to achieve its objective of dismembering Eritrea and destabilizing Ethiopia. It is to be recalled that while the secessionists launched an offensive around Mitsiwa, the Weyane also mounted an attack through north and south Gonder, as well as in Welo and northern Shewa. This clearly shows that the war being waged against the unity of our country and the

peaceful life of our people is masterminded from a single center with the continued support of foreign anti-Ethiopia forces. The secessionist group and the Weyane, without giving any consideration to a peaceful solution, sometimes entering the front together and sometimes separately, are continuing their fighting.

When the secessionists are trapped on one front or another, the Weyane begins fighting from another direction and hence runs here and there to lessen the tension. Similarly, when the Weyane suffers losses, the secessionists do likewise. The war being carried out through such coordination has made the situation in Eritrea in particular very alarming and brought it to a dangerous stage.

The Weyane group, which infiltrated northern Shewa during the past week and was severely crushed by our revolutionary army and people's militia, with the participation and support of the inhabitants of the area, and at a time when the struggle being waged at Mitsiwa has reached a very decisive stage, has now opened up a new offensive front from Tigray to southern Eritrea. Our revolutionary army and people's militia are making great efforts to counter this act.

The struggle being undertaken at the various fronts being opened up at various times, and in particular that at the Mitsiwa front, is a struggle to preserve the unity of Ethiopia. This struggle is a decisive one to counter the arrogant war of the secessionists and the Weyane, which has rejected peace and is using the time to achieve their objectives through force. Although the conspiracy of the secessionists and the Weyane will not deter us from efforts to achieve a peaceful solution, the process of countering the war being waged against us through the large-scale support of foreign anti-Ethiopia forces has become one to test further the identity of Ethiopians. Ethiopia first!

EPLF Rebels Report Adi Keyih, Senafe Victories

EA2704141090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses
of Eritrea in Amharic 1630 GMT 26 Apr 90

[Excerpt] The heroic Eritrean People's Liberation Front [EPLF] army yesterday afternoon put out of action and routed the Dergue troops deployed in Adi Keyih and its environs [south of Asmera]. The EPLF won this victory by continuing its offensive in southern Eritrea launched on 24 April. The EPLF routed the Dergue troops from Senafe and its environs on the first day. Pursuing those who escaped death or wounds and overcoming all difficulties, the EPLF moved to a point between Senafe and Adi Keyih. The EPLF then annihilated the troops stationed in Adi Keyih and its environs yesterday. Adi Keyih is the capital of Akale Guzay Province and is 111 km south of Asmera on the main road to Addis Ababa.

The EPLF won these victories at Adi Keyih and Senafe by challenging the Dergue's attempts to mount an (?offensive) on the Ginda front and inflicting heavy losses on the Dergue troops. [passage omitted]

'Dergue Troops' Join EPLF

EA2904182490 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Amharic 0630 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Since the heroic Eritrean People's Liberation Front [EPLF] army began an offensive against the Dergue troops in southern Eritrea, 1800 Dergue irregulars have joined the EPLF.

The 1800 irregulars, who escaped from the Dergue and joined the EPLF, were in Senafe, Adi Keyih, and (Kohaito) as well as in other places, and they joined the EPLF together with their commanders and plenty of arms.

The commanders who joined the EPLF include: (Aza Osman), commander of the Army battalion of the Red Sea, which was dispersed during the Mitsiwa fighting; (Ahmed Sharif), commander of a battalion of (Kohaito) and member of the Worker's Party of Ethiopia [WPE]; (Ebrahim Azalto), deputy Army battalion commander; (Abdohas Ahmed), head of the political department of an Army battalion, and Lieutenant Negash Tasfu, commissar of Senafe Province and battalion commander. [passage omitted]

Rebels Say Dergue Troops 'Crushed'

EA3004101290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya 0400 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Excerpts] Continuing its offensive in southern Eritrea, the heroic Eritrean People's Liberation Army [EPLF] people's army has crushed Dergue troops entrenched in and around Digsä. Digsä is in a strategic position 70 km south of Asmara on the main Asmara-Addis Ababa highway. The people's army launched its offensive in southern Eritrea on 24 April. On that day, it wiped out the Dergue troops entrenched in and around Senafe and on 25 April it did the same at Adi Keyih, the capital of Akele Guzay Province. During the offensive on Senafe, Adi Keyih, and Digsä, the EPLF people's army inflicted heavy losses on the enemy. [passage omitted]

In a statement issued on 28 April, the Dergue government admitted that the offensive launched in southern Eritrea had rendered the situation in Eritrea very alarming and dangerous. Although the Dergue specified the offensive as having been launched by the Tigray People's Liberation Front, the offensive has been witnessed and is known to have been mounted by the EPLF.

Tigray Rebel Radio Reports Explosion at Hilton

EA3004102290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya 0400 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] The Addis Ababa Hilton Hotel was partially damaged by an explosion on 28 April, but no casualties have been reported. The hotel is providing curtailed services due to the damage. The explosive charge was planted by opponents of the regime.

Casualties From Fighting in Ginda Area Reported

JN2804193990 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Apr 90

[Text] In London, a spokesman for the Eritrean People's Liberation Front [EPLF] announced today that more than 6,500 Ethiopian soldiers were killed and 9,000 others wounded by Eritrean revolutionaries in battles that have been raging since the 19th of this month in the Ginda area, 70 km west of Massaua Port, which the spokesman said is still under EPLF control.

EPRDF Rebels Report 60 Government Troops Killed

EA2904185490 (Clandestine) Voice of the Ethiopian People for Peace, Democracy, and Freedom in Amharic 0400 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Text] The People's Army of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front [EPRDF] is registering big victories in its bitter internal struggle for the prevalence of peace, democracy, and freedom in the whole of the country. Our heroic army recently mopped up the huge enemy force fortified on a 150 km road from Guguf [southern Welo] to Alem town [northern Shewa] and scored a victory. It scored additional victories by clearing the enemy force along the Dese-Addis Ababa, and Gojam-Addis Ababa roads. Even today the people's army is dispersing the ill-fated Worker's Party of Ethiopia [WPE] Army.

At a time when the WPE has been attempting to present its dream of victory as true and claims that it has mopped up the EPRDF in different places in northern Shewa, the people's army of the EPRDF has attacked the V/PE army, which has been advancing from various places, dispersed them. It forced the rest to retreat to their base, 27 April.

In the present engagement our army dispersed the advancing 89th Brigade which had moved from (Zemero) to Kimir Dingay and forced them to flee to the cliffs. According to the report we received, the dispersed WPE soldiers still have not regrouped. Moreover, our people's army has punished the 33d Commando Brigade, which was advancing from (Zemero) to Menz (Kara) area and has forced it to flee to where it came from.

During the fighting, 60 enemy soldiers were killed, 40 wounded, and nine others were captured. In addition, 23 light guns and one radio communications set were captured.

Nicaraguan, CSFR Envoys Complete Tours of Duty

EA2604160490 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1000 GMT 21 Apr 90

[Summary] Fiseha Desta, member of the Political Bureau of the Workers Party of Ethiopia Central Committee and vice president of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, bade farewell to Mcfield Richards, the Nicaraguan ambassador to Ethiopia, and Dr. Dusan

Rovensky, the Czechoslovak ambassador to Ethiopia on the completion of their tours of duty in Ethiopia.

Uganda

President Museveni Returns From Burundi

EA2504125090 Kampala Domestic Service in English
0400 GMT 23 Apr 90

[Excerpts] President Yoweri Museveni has returned home after a one-day visit to Bujumbura in Burundi, where he attended the fifth extraordinary summit of the management of Kagera River Basin Organization [KBO]. [passage omitted]

During his stay in Bujumbura, President Yoweri Museveni also met with President Juvenal Habyarimana of Rwanda and President Buyoya of Burundi in two separate meetings at the [word indistinct] Nile Hotel. The heads of state discussed matters of mutual interest between their sister countries as well as issues of international interest. President Museveni also met with the Tanzanian prime minister and first vice president, Mr. Joseph Sinde Warioba, also at the Nile Hotel. They discussed matters of mutual interest between Uganda and Tanzania and also the political and economic situation of Africa. [passage omitted]

Museveni Meets With Yugoslav Vice President

EA2504101290 Kampala Domestic Service in English
0600 GMT 22 Apr 90

[Excerpt] The vice president of the Presidency of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Dr. Borisav Jovic, last evening called on President Yoweri Museveni at State House, Entebbe. The Yugoslav vice president began a two-day friendly visit to Uganda yesterday, after attending the Zimbabwe 10th independence anniversary celebrations in Harare.

During their meeting, President Museveni briefed his visitor on the general situation in Uganda and told him that the main job now facing the NRM [National Resistance Movement] government is to restore and create state agencies vital for the development and advancement of the country.

On the economic front, President Museveni said that Uganda under the NRM wants to make sure that our industries are based on our raw materials, there is manufacture of some spares for the industrial machinery, as well as diversifying our exports. He went on to say that with such a strategy, the country will be relatively immunized from international economic shocks. Mr. Museveni told the Yugoslav vice president the Ugandan economy is growing very fast, such that in the last few years it has registered a seven percent growth, and inflation reduced from 300 percent to 30 percent, and that it continues to come down. He assured

the visitor that Uganda produces a lot of food crops with big surpluses which could be exported to countries like Yugoslavia.

Talking about the African situation in general, President Yoweri Museveni observed that the continent is bedevilled by numerous problems. The past 30 years have witnessed an expansion of education system in many African countries. He said that it is one of the few irreversible achievements by the continent, and that in future it will have its own positive impact. He also said that the economic problems facing the continent are actually not real problems, taking into consideration the vast natural resources Africa is endowed with.

For his part, the Yugoslav vice president assured President Museveni that his country will always endeavor to expand and enhance cooperation with Uganda. He said that Yugoslavia could import a lot of Uganda's agricultural products, such as soya beans, coffee, and beans. Dr. Jovic also briefed President Museveni on the current situation in Yugoslavia and the steps being taken to consolidate their achievements. [passage omitted]

Soldiers Killed in 'Renewed Rebel Activities'

AB2404220590 Paris AFP in English 1647 GMT
24 Apr 90

[Text] Kampala, April 24 (AFP)—Four soldiers of the National Resistance Army (NRA) were killed last week when their vehicle was ambushed by rebels, the official NEW VISION newspaper reported today. The paper said the incident took place on April 16 near Corner Rac-Koko, about 72 kms (45 miles) on the Kitgum-Lira road in northern Uganda.

The attack follows reports of renewed rebel activities in the area by remnants of the Holy Spirit Movement (HSM) now calling itself the United Democratic Christian Movement (UDCM). Last week 43 people were hacked to death by the same rebels. The paper said the rebels also set ablaze a lorry belonging to the Rehabilitation Ministry.

Meanwhile, 12 people have died of meningitis during the past week in the northern town of Lira, the NEW VISION said today. The paper quoted area council member (member of parliament) Reverend Yeko-Atwai as saying the area lacked vaccines and more deaths were expected this week.

Three Rebel Commanders Reportedly Killed*AB2604074290 Paris AFP in English 2056 GMT
25 Apr 90*

[Text] Kampala, April 25 (AFP)—The National Resistance Army (NRA) has killed three senior rebel commanders in Uganda's eastern district of Soroti, the NEW VISION newspaper reported Wednesday.

Among them was Major Okiror, a Uganda Peoples' Democratic Army (UPDA) officer who had fled to Soroti from Gulu when the NRA intensified operations against them there.

The others were Edward Okiror, until recently UPDA's chief intelligence officer, who was killed in an ambush in Akaikai, near Soroti, and Lieutenant Sunlight Okiror who was killed in Ngora, according to Soroti Brigade commander Maj. Walter Ochora.

In a public rally held in Soroti on April 14, the NRA commander for Serere, Captain Geoffrey Muhesi, said the NRA had killed 10 rebels in Amurojo in Serere County as they were trying to cross Lake Kyoga on April 13.

NEW VISION said a large number of rebels were surrendering. In Serere and Kasilo counties 314 had surrendered, among them was Capt. Stephen Opolot, formerly an NRA officer who deserted when he was paymaster.

450 Rebels Reportedly Surrender in Soroti District*AB2704122490 Paris AFP in English 1059 GMT
26 Apr 90*

[Text] Kampala, April 27 (AFP)—Over 450 rebels of the Ugandan People's Army have surrendered in eastern Uganda's Soroti District following a National Resistance Army offensive last February, the official NEW VISION paper reported Friday. The daily said that among those who have surrendered was the rebel political co-ordinator for Kaberamaido County and two other officers.

Press reports said Thursday that government soldiers had killed three rebel military officers and the surrenders appeared a result of the NRA clampdown. A senior government official said that the Soroti District administrator, the military commander and religious leaders in

the area had received letters from rebels seeking assurances for their safety if they surrendered.

Among those seeking assurances was the rebel deputy operations commander Sam Otai, nephew to people's army leader Peter Otai.

The paper quoted Soroti's 310 brigade commander, Maj Walter Ochora as saying that temporary camps had been established for relatives of those surrendering to protect them from reprisals by rebels still in the bush.

Former Minister's Trial Begins 24 Apr*AB2504084290 Paris AFP in English 1520 GMT
24 Apr 90*

[Text] Kampala, April 24 (AFP)—Uganda Culture, Sports and Youth Minister Moses Ali appeared before Kampala's chief magistrate Edward Bamwite on Tuesday charged with treason and terrorism.

According to the prosecutor, Mr. Ali and two others—a fishmonger and teacher—were found plotting to overthrow the government on various dates between last year and April 7 this year when the minister was arrested.

The prosecutor said that Mr. Ali, 51, was on April 7 found in illegal possession of five sub-machine guns (SMG's) after a police search of his official residence in Kampala. The prosecutor further said that on the same date and at the same place, he was found in possession of 26 SMG rounds of ammunition without authority or firearms licence.

The minister, who was represented in court by Kampala advocate Lawrence Sebalu, pleaded not guilty to the terrorism charges, but was not required to plead to the treason charge; it is only the Uganda High Court which tries treason cases.

In a statement read to the court, the defence counsel accused the authorities of detaining Mr. Ali unlawfully for 17 days in contravention of the law that requires a defendant to be brought before court within 24 hours of his arrest. He also charged that the minister had been kept incommunicado with his family and lawyers not allowed to see him until only a day before being brought to court.

Mr. Ali's arrest was first announced by the acting inspector general of police on April 8 who said he had been detained for engaging in treasonable acts.

TV Reports Arrival of Slovo, ANC Delegation

MB2704160490 Johannesburg Television Service
in English 1545 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] The Lusaka-based African National Congress [ANC] delegation to have talks with the government in Cape Town next week arrived at D.F. Malan Airport a short while ago. Tight security marked the arrival of the delegates aboard a Zambian Airlines aircraft which touched down just before 1600 in cold rainy weather.

Among the first to alight from the aircraft was the secretary general of the South African Communist Party, Mr. Joe Slovo.

Access to the airport's international concourse was restricted to holders of permits issued by the ANC.

Among those to welcome the group was Mr. Aziz Pahad, of the Communist Party, and some members of the ANC's negotiating team, including the president of the United Democratic Front, Mr. Archie Gumede and Miss Cheryl Carolus of the ANC's Western Cape interim committee.

Late this afternoon, they addressed a news conference, and we will have wider coverage in the 2000 news.

ANC's Nzo, Slovo Comment

MB2704164690 London BBC World Service in English
1615 GMT 27 Apr 90

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] This afternoon, top leaders of the ANC [African National Congress] finally arrived back home in South Africa in preparation for next week's crucial talks with the South African Government.

Some of them have been away from their homes for 27 years.

This is what the ANC's secretary general, Alfred Nzo, had to say about it:

[Begin Nzo recording] This is, of course, an emotionally exciting moment. Some of us have been away from our beautiful country for almost three decades. [end recording]

As for another prominent ANC man and communist party leader, Joe Slovo, while moved by his homecoming, he could still make a joke:

[Begin Slovo recording] Well, as I was saying before I was so rudely interrupted 27 years ago, I think it means that we're well on the way. And, perhaps, I ought to say a word about this journey, which was the longest four-hour jet journey that I've ever been on, and I never imagined that the pilot's announcement could make music.

It was almost like a symphony when he started announcing: We are now crossing the Limpopo. On your right is Pretoria, on your left is Johannesburg, and there

is Soweto and Potchefstroom, and Vereeniging, and even Vredefort sent a lump to our throats.

So, of course, it's for us who left by the back door and have now entered the very front door of South Africa; it's a remarkable feeling. I suppose it will take a little time to really sink in, like the announcement in Afrikaans a moment ago. It made one feel at home. [end recording]

Sisulu, Others Arrive

MB2804123190 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1225 GMT 28 Apr 90

[Text] Cape Town April 28 SAPA—Three members of the ANC [African National Congress] delegation which will be holding talks with President F.W. de Klerk in Cape Town next week, arrived at the city's D.F. Malan Airport on Saturday [28 April] morning.

Mr Walter Sisulu, Mr Beyers Naude, Mr Ahmed Kathrada accompanied by several aides, flew in from Johannesburg at 10.45am [0845 GMT] to join the five other delegates—including Mr Jose Slovo, Mr Alfred Nzo and Mr Thabo Mbeki—who arrived from Lusaka on Friday.

ANC Deputy President Mr Nelson Mandela, accompanied by Mrs Winnie Mandela, is due to arrive in Cape Town at 10:40 PM on Saturday night.

Mr Mandela and the other delegates will speak at a mass rally at Mitchell's Plain in Cape Town on Sunday afternoon, and on Monday will hold talks with leaders of the Mass Democratic Movement and COSATU in Cape Town.

Talks with President de Klerk are scheduled to start on May 2 and are aimed at creating a climate conducive to negotiations for constitutional change.

ANC's Tambo Leaves Swedish Clinic; May Visit RSA

MB2704114090 Umtata Capital Radio in English
1100 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] ANC [African National Congress] President Oliver Tambo has left the clinic in Sweden where he has been treated for the past four months. Swedish News Agency reports that he is on his way to London, and may be coming to South Africa soon.

Tambo suffered a stroke last October. He has been in a clinic in Stockholm which specializes in brain damage rehabilitation. Although he has responded to treatment, ANC officials are unsure how active a role he can play in the organization's leadership.

Department Reveals Nujoma Request on Extraditions*MB2804144290 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1432 GMT 28 Apr 90*

[By Charl de Villiers]

[Excerpts] Pretoria April 28 SAPA—Namibian President Mr Sam Nujoma has requested South African authorities to extradite six men—including former Civil Co-operation Bureau cell commander Mr “Staal” Burger—implicated in political-related murders in the country, the Department of Justice confirmed on Friday [27 April].

The request, dated April 21, 1990, was made to the South African state president, Mr F.W. de Klerk, and was received the next day by the justice minister, Mr Kobie Coetsee, the department said in a statement to SAPA.

The request would be considered once certain other details were received from Namibia, the Justice Department's liaison director, Mr Nic Grobler, said.

This had already been conveyed to the Namibian authorities. [passage omitted]

There is no formal extradition treaty between South Africa and Namibia following the country's independence on March 21.

According to the Department of Justice, the state president is empowered to authorise extradition in the terms of the Extradition Act of 1962. The most important consideration was that a magistrate had to decide whether a person was extraditable.

The Criminal Procedures Act of 1977 provided for witnesses to be questioned in a foreign country. In this case, Namibia would have to take the initiative and there was no provision obliging potential witnesses to testify outside the country, the Department of Justice statement said.

Letter Bomb Maims ANC Supporter in Harare*MB2904122590 Umtata Capital Radio in English
1100 GMT 29 Apr 90*

[Text] A prominent ANC [African National Congress] priest has been letter-bombed in Harare. Peter Thornicroft both his hands.

[Begin Thornicroft recording] Father Lapsley, an Anglican priest, was expelled from South Africa in the 70's. He went to Lesotho, and came to Zimbabwe shortly after independence in 1980. He is an active member of the ANC, and officiated at all its religious ceremonies.

The explosion which maimed Father Lapsley is the first bomb aimed at the ANC in two years. Father Lapsley is in the Intensive Care Unit of Zimbabwe's main hospital.

So far, there have been no comments from the Zimbabwean Government. The letter bomb was posted from South Africa, according to ANC sources. [end recording].

Late information says the bomb was contained in a parcel of books.

27 Apr Press Review on Current Problems, Issues*MB2704135090*

[Editorial Report]

THE CITIZEN

'Armed Struggle' 'Stumbling Block' To Talks—Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English on 25 April in its page 6 editorial observes the 2 May talks between the African National Congress (ANC) and the government is going to be “fraught with problems.” The “chief stumbling block” is the ANC's “insistence that the ‘armed struggle’ continue until its demands, as set out in the Harare declaration, are met.” “A compromise could be reached on the termination of some, if not all, political trials, and as for ending political executions, the government has already stayed the hanging of people pending a decision on capital punishment. But supposing some of the obstacles to negotiation are removed at the May meeting, what follows is even more intractable. The ANC wants an interim government to supervise the process of drafting and adopting a new constitution, as well as to govern and administer the country pending the organisation of national elections. The government quite rightly wants the constitution to be drafted at the Great Indaba.”

THE STAR

Call for Police Neutrality—The government move to ban police force members belonging to political parties is “wise beyond its immediate intentions,” observes Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 27 April in a page 14 editorial. “The time will come when it will be necessary to incorporate the fighting men of the ANC into the larger South African security system, where they will work as colleagues alongside the SAP [South African Police] and the Defence Force. The thought of such integration may still be anathema to the old guard of white politics, but it is the direction in which South Africa is heading.” “Imposed political neutrality will deter temptations towards internal political sabotage, but it will have other benefits as well. It should, in time, restore public confidence in the police and army as protectors of the people instead of oppressors, and provide an obstacle to future political infiltration from whatever quarter under any new power dispensation.”

BUSINESS DAY

Businessmen-ANC Meeting 'Trust-Building Exercise'—The planned meeting of 400 business leaders with 25 ANC members to discuss the economic future is “a necessary and heartening first step towards resolving the

potentially destructive dispute over title to property, the question which lies at the heart of the nationalisation fuss," declares Johannesburg **BUSINESS DAY** in English on 27 April in a page 8 editorial. The first meeting should be viewed as "a trust-building exercise." It is also well to recognize that "such high-level discussions have a limited impact, or at least that it may take a long, long time before common sense, unanimously accepted at the top, filters down to the ANC's over-expectant community."

SOWETAN

Compromise on Death Sentence—Johannesburg **SOWETAN** in English on 27 April in a page 6 editorial says State President F.W. de Klerk is "delivering" on one of his 2 February promises, the abolition of the compulsory death sentence. "The new law does not do away with the death penalty but it will give the courts discretion. It will also put safeguards along the way to ensure that justice is done. This is obviously a compromise between those who want to see the penalty scrapped altogether and those who insist it should remain in the statute book."

ANC-Businessmen Talks Must Consider Black Interests—A second editorial on the same page notes that discussions between the business community and the ANC on "options for a future political economy" are "fine as long as the interests of blacks are taken into account. Countless meetings convened just to allay white fears will be worthless. The challenge facing this country is to make the economy work for everybody, not just the minority."

CAPE TIMES

Effect on Lifting of Sanctions—Cape Town **CAPE TIMES** in English on 24 April states in a page 6 editorial: "An estimate that sanctions since 1985 have been roughly equivalent to a halving of the gold price, causing additional unemployment of some 500,000, emphasizes once again the untenable economic nature of the apartheid era. Ironically, we are now apparently not able to meet export demand for coal and steel although sanctions remain essentially intact. The obvious implication is that a lifting of sanctions tomorrow would not induce a dramatic upsurge in exports, nor, of course, would foreign investment necessarily show any noticeable improvement."

THE NATAL WITNESS

Free Settlement Concept Flawed—"The success of the piecemeal free settlement area system does not look assured," remarks a page 12 editorial in Pietermaritzburg **THE NATAL WITNESS** in English on 11 April. South Africa's "artificially created demographic patterns make large scale rearrangement unlikely—although some areas where there is racial blurring already exists—but disruptions and imbalances will be at least partially dampened if policy on the issue is bold, with the largest possible areas declared open. The problem with 'free

settlement' is that it is not free at all, but part of the Group Areas concept. The only lasting solution is to open up the whole country to people of all races."

NEW NATION

Need for General Amnesty—"De Klerk and his government, if their reform programme is to have any credibility, need to offer a general amnesty to pave the way for the patriots to return home," declares the page 6 editorial in Johannesburg **NEW NATION** in English for 27 Apr-3 May. **NEW NATION** "fervently hopes that this will be one of the issues for discussion at next week's talks. After all, political organisations have been unbanned; why then should their membership continue to be penalised for that particular association?" "Why should we continue to have people incarcerated for waging a struggle against apartheid when even the regime itself has acknowledged the fundamental wrongness of that political philosophy?"

BEELD

Right-Wing Leaders Incite Confrontation—Johannesburg **BEELD** in Afrikaans on 25 April in a page 10 editorial says: "State President F.W. de Klerk talked in Parliament last week of the right-wing groups' 'subtle, and sometimes less subtle promotion of a violence psychosis'. At a Conservative Party gathering on 23 April in Vereeniging MP Koos van der Merwe referred to President de Klerk as a traitor. What effect can the latter remark not have on overheated far right-wing minds?" "The responsibility of public leaders to reduce conflict cannot be stressed enough. Unfortunately, it appears there are right-wing leaders, also from the Conservative Party, who through their words are spurring on confrontation."

* Top-Level Talks Boost Links With Japan

34000571A Johannesburg **BUSINESS DAY**
in English 27 Mar 90 pp 1, 2

[Text] Cape Town—Relations between SA [South Africa] and Japan received a significant boost yesterday after intensive talks between the two governments in Cape Town.

President F. W. de Klerk said afterwards he hoped to see expanded trade relations between SA and Japan—already one of this country's leading trading partners.

Japanese delegation leader T. Kuranari said Japan would like to play a role in SA, developing "friendly relations with all the countries of the world".

Kuranari, a former Japanese foreign minister who led his country's delegation to the Namibian celebrations last week, said he was "very encouraged" by De Klerk's plans to remove apartheid.

Describing his talks with De Klerk as "very friendly and frank", Kuranari said: "I hope the SA policy will change

greatly and I hope that SA will be accepted as a democratic country in the international community."

After discussions with Foreign Minister Pik Botha earlier yesterday, the Japanese delegation joined De Klerk and senior government officials for a working lunch.

De Klerk said at a Press Conference the talks had covered "bilateral relationships, southern Africa and the tremendous new changes which face not only southern Africa but the whole world".

Asked to what extent the talks had dealt with possible Japanese aid to SA and trade relations, De Klerk responded: "SA has never asked for aid from anybody."

He confirmed that trade relations were discussed, as had been the case with all other delegations that had spoken to the SA government in recent weeks.

"We have good trade relations with many countries, and that includes Japan, and we would hope to see that expand in a normal manner," De Klerk added.

Turning to the recent flurry of diplomatic activity between SA and foreign governments, De Klerk said: "I am heartened by the very positive reaction of these governments, the acknowledgement of the complexities which we face in this country and the acceptance of the fact that we are truly on our way to a new SA."

* COSATU Leader on Present, Future Campaigns

34000571B Lusaka SECHABA in English
Mar 90 pp 6-8

[Second part of interview with COSATU Sec-Gen Jay Naidoo in January, 1990]

[Text] [SECHABA] Black workers are suffering both economic exploitation and national oppression, something the Freedom Charter gives expression to. How does COSATU [Congress of South African Trade Unions] articulate this double oppression?

[Naidoo] In 1987, COSATU adopted the Freedom Charter as a programme of his own minimum political demands. We did this mainly because as a trade union federation we're not a political party, but play a major political role in the unfolding transformation of South Africa. What we saw was that the most representative organisation in our country—representing the aspirations of the vast majority of our people—was the African National Congress [ANC]. A number of the aims and objectives of the African National Congress coincided with the aims and objectives of COSATU itself, in that we are both committed to creating a non-racial, democratic, united South Africa, based on one person one vote on a common voters' roll.

Therefore, the Freedom Charter became a major rallying point of the people of South Africa. The trade union movement saw that its role could not be restricted to economic issues on the factory floor, because the major

struggle against economic exploitation is a political struggle. Apartheid ensures that it becomes a political struggle—apartheid legislation, the migrant labour system, the hostel system, the fact that when police intervene in industrial disputes it's usually against the black workers or the unions organising black workers.

So it is essential that we draw the connection between the struggle on the factory floor and the broader struggle for political freedom. That's why we've argued in our policy that the struggle for national liberation is part of an uninterrupted struggle for economic emancipation. We, in the trade union movement, as well as many other parts of the working class—the youth, the students, the women—are committed to fundamental transformation of South Africa, both politically and economically.

[SECHABA] COASTU is a trade union movement, but the workers in South Africa, the black workers, have contacts and connections with the countryside. They go home on holidays or when their contracts are finished. That means that COSATU has also to tackle the land question, the problem afflicting the rural people. How does COSATU do that?

[Naidoo] One of the great weaknesses of our own struggle has been the weakness of organisation in the rural areas. Over half a million workers in COSATU come from the rural areas and when those workers go back they go back with their experiences—organisational, political—and they take those experiences into their different areas. So one can say that COSATU and many other organisations on the past, of today, of the Mass Democratic Movement, have made a great contribution, through the workers who have gone back to these different areas and created forms of organisation that changed the bantustans, or are changing the bantustans, from being areas in the political control of the apartheid regime through puppet regimes to areas that are now flashpoints of resistance.

We, in COSATU see that there is an absolute need now to develop forms of organisation in the rural areas, that can make our resistance more uniform. Therefore, the issue that needs to be identified among the rural masses is the issue of land hunger, and how, in a post-apartheid South Africa, we are going to resolve that question.

[SECHABA] Are you thinking of having a broad peasant organisation to address rural problems?

[Naidoo] No, not at this point in time. I think the farthest COSATU has gone is to say that one of our priorities in 1989—certainly we hope to make it a priority in 1990—is the organisation of farm workers. They could provide, in our view, the backbone of any organisation that emerged in the rural areas.

I think the youth organisations that are being built in the rural areas are also important. They play a key role, though they have suffered enormously under the state of emergency. But we have not considered forming peasant organisations. What we will have to consider is that the

types of organisation one forms in the rural areas, and the tactics one employs, have to adapt to the conditions that exist in the rural areas, because they are not the same as those that exist in the urban areas.

[SECHABA] Another problem that faces COSATU is the old question of its relationship with NACTU, the National Council of Trade Unions. How are you resolving this problem? What are the basic differences between them?

[Naidoo] At our congress in 1989, we resolved to meet with NACTU to discuss a timetable towards creating one federation. This demonstrates the openness that COSATU has to discussing the unity of organised workers. Our view is that there is more that unites workers than divides them; and that democracy should take place, that workers should be allowed to meet and discuss the problems and challenges that face them.

In South Africa, exploitation is the orientation that the economic system has. We are dominated by huge monopolies that make employers in our country very organised; today there is a major onslaught on the labour movement through the Labour Relations Act, attacks on everything we have successfully negotiated over the past ten years. This requires us to be united, and through the workers' summits we appealed to NACTU to unite with us in opposition to this Labour Relations Act, and we hoped that through unity in action we could lay the basis for unity of organisation.

What has been very disturbing to us is the tendency of NACTU to pull out of campaigns and agreements that they make with us, at the last minute. It happened at the first workers' summit in March 1989, where, though NACTU took a decision not to come, 11 of its affiliates came. It happened now at the Conference for a Democratic Future, where NACTU was part of the convening committee, and at the last minute it withdrew, though some of its affiliates came to the conference. It has also happened in relation to our campaign against the Labour Relations Act. There have been stages where, despite agreements, they have pulled out.

But we are hopeful that in 1990 there could be a much greater basis for unity and united action. We are confident that workers on the ground want unity—they want one federation. It requires a commitment from the leadership to achieve that.

[SECHABA] How do you assess the Conference for a Democratic Future [CDF]?

[Naidoo] The CDF was a watershed—the fact that we had 2,000 organisations, 4,600 delegates represented there, was a massive blow against apartheid. The spectrum of political opinion in that conference was greater than we have ever had in the past.

[SECHABA] I'm sure COSATU has discussed the constitutional guidelines of the ANC, and the conditions

and preconditions for a negotiated settlement. What are the views of COSATU on these important issues?

[Naidoo] The constitutional guidelines were a major contribution to the debate on the shape and the content of a post-apartheid South Africa. They provided the framework in which the masses of our people could participate in shaping that future. In our 1989 Congress, we adopted a resolution that called for the fullest discussion, not only within the ranks of COSATU but in the broad ranks of the toiling masses of our country, of what elements should be going into the constitution of the future South Africa. A constitution can be negotiated only under conditions of freedom, where mandated representatives of the people will bring forward the expectations and demands of the people.

In that context, we've also begun a campaign, which will become more effective in 1990, of debating the Workers' Charter, and what demands should be going into the Workers' Charter, as part of the debate on constitutional guidelines. Within three years of the last Congress, we are going to call a Workers' Charter Congress to determine what rights the organised workers want built into the constitution through the Workers' Charter.

We have debated the issues of what mechanisms should formulate the constitution arising out of the CDF—for example, the adoption of the resolution that called for a constituent assembly, which is a further development from the Harare Declaration. That constituent assembly is now going to become a major rallying point of the Mass Democratic Movement, of the masses of the people in our country.

At this point in time, when the crisis of De Klerk is irreversible, we are definitely not going to hand over the future of our country to any group or individuals that impose their interests on our people. I think that's the view that was taken when the ANC put forward the constitutional guidelines. It is not international conferences that are going to determine the content of our post-apartheid South Africa, it is the demands and expectations of our people on the ground, and the role that the organisations have played in fighting for the new South Africa. We are very confident that that is what will happen. I believe that the Harare Declaration represents the aspirations of the vast majority of people in South Africa. It contains within it the programme that we see unfolding in our march to a new South Africa.

We believe the apartheid regime is very sensitive to international pressure. Therefore it would be a disaster if the international community had to discuss the lifting or the relaxing of that pressure. In fact, in this moment of transition for South Africa, the pressure against apartheid needs to be intensified. Therefore, COSATU and the democratic movement as a whole has called for the imposition of comprehensive, mandatory sanctions through the United Nations Security Council. That would be decisive in breaking the log jam that exists at

present, and in forcing the apartheid regime to meet the demands being made by millions of people.

* Discussion Article Considers Land Reform Issue

34000571C Lusaka SECHABA in English
Mar 90 pp 22-27

[Article by Tessa Marcus: "Land Reform in the National Democratic Revolution: Some Central Considerations"]

[Text] On the very first acts of the Boer government, after it had been given power by the British in 1910 to perpetuate colonialism in our country, was to pass the Land Act of 1913. Under this Act, an almost total displacement of the African people of South Africa from the land they had used for grazing and crop growing was effected. The ANC [African National Congress], after just a year of its existence, mobilised the people widely and went into action against this law. That struggle continues and is reflected in the importance that the ANC and the rest of the democratic movement in the country places on it.

Land, or the absence of rights to and control over it, is a national grievance. The relatively slow and uneven development of popular democratic forces in the countryside, the difficulties of initiating and sustaining rural organisation, concern about the actual conditions on the land and the way these ought to be redressed in the national democratic revolution have all combined to stimulate growing debate on the land question. The role of the state, the policies it adopts and the implications these have for the extension of democracy in the countryside are key issues which I propose to raise for discussion here.

'Political' Versus 'Economic' Solutions

The land question affects a complex array of social forces, whose interests are difficult to reconcile, and the relation of these to the perceived national interest gives rise to considerable tension for policy-makers.

Land reform has frequently fallen victim to political expediency. Measures have been devised to deflate political and social unrest and to win the support of key social forces in the countryside and towns, without taking into consideration the broader economic and political implications these carry. The evident economic failure of those policies (which therefore fail politically) has stimulated a reaction that argues for 'economic' (rational and objective) rather than 'political' (ideological) answers. And what is understood as 'economic' is little more than the status quo, with a few modifications to iron out the more apparent injustices. Disregarding national and social grievances in the interests of narrow economism generates considerable political discontent and social disruption, and invariably fails economically as well.

Ironically, the weakness of both approaches is rooted in the same problem: they reduce and distort the political and economic dimensions of the land question and fail

to deal with their close interrelation. To redress the national grievances of the black majority and the social grievances of those who are directly and indirectly linked to the land, the state has to try to reconcile political demands with economic needs.

This is not easy. Reductionism and distortions aren't simply a product of subjective conditions or individual idiosyncrasies. They stem from objective conditions. The options open to a national democratic state are determined by, among others, the landed relations it inherits and the relative strength of different class forces in both town and countryside, as well as by its own approach to land reform policy, which will be shaped in large measure by whether or not it is subject to democratic control

Land Ownership

Perhaps the most burning question is that of ownership, as who owns the land determines who has access to it and how it will be worked. The notion of a mixed economy suggests that there will be different forms of land ownership and therefore different routes of access. In theory and practice, this is generally tension-filled, as it is difficult to achieve an equitable mix.

At the heart of the matter is whether or not a national democratic state should vest in itself the ownership of land. Although nationalisation is often presented as a socialist measure, especially by those who have vested interest in private land ownership, in itself it is not. The colonial state in South Africa, and elsewhere in Africa, has a long history of using nationalisation to pursue white minority rule. At the same time as it denies Africans ownership, and severely restricts their access to land in most of the country, it uses nationalisation to control and determine the terms of their ownership and access to it in the reserves—the land areas the state designates 'African.' By so doing it has never given up its authority over this land. The nature of the state, therefore, will determine whether it is a socialising measure or not.

It may be presumed that in a mixed economy there will be land held privately by individuals, groups or companies. We need to ask ourselves:

- What do we aim to achieve through nationalisation, and how socially extensive should it be?
- Can other measures effectively achieve similar or better results?
- What are the limitations of partial nationalisation?
- Is the complete nationalisation of land feasible?

A democratic government has to attend to the national grievance of the African majority, namely their all but complete dispossession of the land.

Breaking White Monopoly

Its first and most urgent task is to break the legal and social monopoly Whites have over land ownership and

access. Repealing all existing laws which related to the land (the Land Acts, laws defining the homelands, anti-squatting legislation and so on) will undoubtedly expand black access to land, but it is likely to make only insignificant inroads into the monopoly over land ownership that Whites enjoy. Market forces will create an opening for only a tiny minority of Blacks, leaving the majority land-hungry, with the option of trying to gain access to white-owned land on terms set by the minority.

There is, therefore, a need to do more than abolish discriminatory laws. Some attempt has to be made to redistribute the land in order to have a more far-reaching and acceptable impact. This suggests that the state needs to transfer land from the hands of private individuals to society as a whole—that is, to nationalise it. But is this the only alternative?

Leading sections of the ruling class argue that unfettered market forces, rather than nationalisation, will redistribute wealth. There are no indications that this is the case. All the evidence suggests that they tend towards its further concentration in the hands of fewer people. There is no better example of this process at work than what is happening in the platteland today.

Their argument is based on a belief in the inherent goodness of capitalism, which they allege functions 'objectively' rather than politically. This ideology finds little substance in the real world. Neither the state nor the people can rely on market forces to break the white monopoly of land ownership and access. What is required is intervention by the state on a variety of fronts, including nationalisation of the land.

Partial Nationalisation

If land nationalisation is partial, for it to be meaningful it is vital that its extent and focus is defined.

There is the idea in some circles that the state should buy land which has been 'abandoned' or is 'unused,' especially around or near the reserves. This action, it is suggested, will redistribute land which is at present unfunctional, without disrupting production on land which is being effectively used. This solution seems to satisfy both the political and economic needs of a democratic government, but does it?

First, it is highly contentious to suggest that this land is 'abandoned' or 'unused,' especially around or near the reserves. This action, it is suggested, will redistribute land which is at present unfunctional, without disrupting production on land which is being effectively used. This solution seems to satisfy both the political and economic needs of a democratic government, but does it?

First, it is highly contentious to suggest that this land is 'abandoned' or 'unused' because Whites have ceased to live on or work it. Existing evidence shows the opposite, that this land is often quite heavily populated and worked by people—black people—though lack of

resources and overcrowding probably means that while it is over-exploited it is under-utilised.

Secondly, even if this land is under-utilised, what purpose would it serve to extend African access only to land with the lowest yield, that heavily subsidised white farmers have been forced to abandon? The state would have to divert large amounts of its limited resources into these areas, with very little gain, while the richest land areas would remain untouched, firmly in the hands of private, mostly white, highly capitalised farmers. The positive effect of nationalisation of this land is that it would legalise *de facto* black land possession. However, without more extensive nationalisation, it would have no impact on the commanding position occupied by Whites, and would impose a considerable burden on the state without doing much to relieve black land hunger. Even partial nationalisation must make inroads into the heart of power in the sector.

If productive land which is well located in terms of marketing and distribution is to be partially nationalised, then it is necessary to work out criteria to determine what land should remain privately held, and what should be nationalised. Factors such as size and effective productive use could be used in this difficult task.

Total Nationalisation

It is worth giving serious consideration to nationalisation of all the land. This does not automatically imply nationalisation of the enterprises on it. Decisions to nationalise particular enterprises would be determined by, among other things, effective use, productivity, the level of worker organisation, as well as the capacity of the state to run them.

However, by nationalising land, the state would be able to broaden the social base of land access, as people wanting to work the land would have to sink a large part of their very limited capital into private purchase. In turn, this capital would be released for productive purposes directly affecting output. Also, while benefiting from the revenue earned in its capacity as landlord, the state would be able to control rent, and so prevent the exploitation of tenants.

The way production is to be organised on the land will be shaped by both land and agrarian reform policies. Some issues related to the production mix need to be considered when devising policy.

Different farming types will all be framed by the dominant system of production. As things stand in South Africa, this means large-scale, privately owned, commercial farming. This form of production is characterised by cheap and rightless labour and considerable state support, both of which raise major problems for its functioning under a national democratic government.

Regarding labour, there is the immediate question of terms of employment. From the workers' point of view,

farm work is one of the most hated sectors of employment. Farm work is a last resort. Generally, people will be extremely reluctant to remain and work on these farms without considerable change in their social conditions. Yet the profitability of this form of production rests largely on the cheapness of labour. Rights for workers and a minimum wage will affect this profitability, generate resistance from farmers and even threaten production. This means that the state will either concede to farmers' demands out of its concern to keep production levels up, as in Zimbabwe, or it will act in the interests of labour. Acting in the interests of labour will mean reconsidering the way large-scale commercial farming is organised, and its role in the sector.

State Support

Regarding state support, the state has only limited resources to allocate to the countryside. Invariably, these resources gravitate towards the rich and well established, who are able to mobilise themselves politically and economically. Subsidising large-scale, private, commercial farming will inevitably be at the expense of the less dominant forms of production in the sector. Therefore, apart from general efforts to develop the social infrastructure in the countryside, the state needs to prioritise and direct its support. It needs to determine the importance given to each particular form of production, evaluating them in terms of gross output, and in terms of employment levels, conditions of work and so on.

Nationalising large-scale commercial enterprises (not necessarily all) opens up several possibilities for reorganising production.

- The state can retain the enterprise intact, running it as a single entity under state management.

In theory, at least, this is the most satisfactory solution, both economically and politically, allowing the production unit to benefit from the advantages of economies of scale and to extend democratic authority and control. In practice, however, this does not always occur—management skills are lacking, or relations mirror those of privately owned large-scale enterprises, with worker participation and control subordinated to the demands of output. And where there has been partial nationalisation of enterprises, it is frequently the most marginal that have been taken over by the state.

The option of running state farms, therefore, needs to be guided by our capacity to manage them effectively, ensuring that production is maintained or increased, and by our ability to extend workers' authority and control.

The state can redistribute the enterprises more literally—either by creating agricultural production co-operatives, or by dividing them into small-scale family farms with security of tenure through leasehold, or both. Each of these options meets the agricultural aspirations of different social groups in the countryside. While the

landless have historically responded most positively to production co-operatives, those with access to land yearn for individual tenure.

As with state farming, both these possibilities need to be approached carefully and developed in a systematic way, to improve the well-being of rural dwellers. The small family farmer must not be compelled to survive by "superhuman efforts and a subhuman life." Producer cooperatives should not be imposed, nor should they be relegated to a secondary status in the sector. Both forms of production require considerable input from the state. This should range from calculating appropriate minimum farm size to ensuring easy access to essential capital goods and services, including marketing and distribution.

Level of State Operation

Given both the political and economic complexity of the land and agrarian questions, it is clear that the state has a crucial role to play in the process of ensuring a redistribution of wealth in the countryside. Those who argue against state intervention and support condemn the black and land-hungry majority to a future little different from the conditions they labour under now.

This said, an actively interventionist state generates problems of its own making. It needs to proceed cautiously and carefully under mass popular control. This is not an easy task, as there are various, often conflicting, interests in the countryside as well as at a national level. There are potential dangers, not necessarily peculiar to the land question.

- The aspirant bourgeoisie may use the state apparatus to enrich themselves, their families and kin, and perhaps to solicit political support. Patronage through the allocation of resources—such as leases, access to funding, goods, services and technical know-how—is a familiar feature of the functioning of the state at present, and of many post-independence state apparatuses.
- Centralised planning at a national level may be doctrinaire and insensitive to local conditions. Preconceived notions (invariably urban, often academic, always class-based and class-biased) about existing landed relations and what they ought to become have often failed to reflect shades of land consciousness in the countryside, with detrimental consequences for both state land reform policy and large sections of the rural population. National land policy should create a general prescriptive framework in which the particular implementation can be devised at a local level: for example, land commissions as suggested by Dolny(1).
- Because of pressures exerted by particularly strong social forces in the countryside, national economic interests or international pressures, reactive intervention may be made for immediate effect, without a long-term policy strategy, or in conflict with such a strategy. Although reactive intervention may be

unavoidable at times, it is important that land and agrarian reform policies are conceived in a generalised time frame, and are guided by the overall strategic objectives of raising the standard of living, and improving social conditions of the majority of the population in both town and countryside.

Democratic Control of the Land

The question of democratic control is one we rarely think about when we consider land and agrarian reform. Perhaps it is because we unconsciously concede political and social authority to individual private landed interests, be they large-scale commercial farmers or 'peasants.' Yet it is clear from the argument I have set out that control over the land must be democratised for policy reforms to have the desired effect.

Democratising social relations on the land means ensuring that the base of ownership and control is significantly altered in favour of the black, landless majority, and that reforms are instituted by, and in conjunction with, those who live and work on the land. As Klaassens(2) cogently puts it:

"The land issue is not an empty page that needs filling. Every piece of land in South Africa has a history and people who lay claim to it. An appropriate land strategy must be based on a proper understanding of the traditions, beliefs and dreams that have inspired people to fight decades-long struggles. Only a policy that grows out of these traditions and incorporates the dreams and concrete necessities that people have been fighting for will get popular support."

The nature and extent of democratic control that is possible will be determined by the particular forms of ownership and production relations that emerge and the extent and relative strength of popular rural organisation. It is in this way that rural activism in the present shapes the possibilities open to a national democratic government in the future. Weak organisation today undermines the capacity of rural dwellers to exercise their democratic rights tomorrow.

The state, no less than individual private farmers, must be controlled through accountability. There is a need for considerable consultation and exchange between different levels of the state apparatus and trade union and local popular organisations for land reform policies to succeed in addressing national and social grievances.

Political organisation is also essential if the interests of the least privileged and most down-trodden sections of rural society are to be defended against those who are economically stronger, better organised and more articulate. While the state may at times act as mediator between different rural interests, it may not always be able or want, to do so. There will be substantial social divisions in the countryside. When conflicts of interest arise, as they inevitably will, then the state must be encouraged to act in the national and social interest rather than out of political expediency. This will be possible only through strong popular organisation.

Conclusion

The commitment to land reform enshrined in the constitution ought to express the social and political conditions it aims to redress.

Constitutional protection on the land question obliges the national democratic state to act on it. On its own, however, it can have only a limited effect; it is not a substitute for political and social organisation in the countryside. Strong rural organisation is essential to ensure that popular constitutional rights to the land materialise and are given their broadest and deepest interpretation. There must be some nationalisation of land in order to redress the national and social grievances of the black majority. There is a strong case for nationalisation of all the land, but should the political balance of forces not permit it, partial land nationalisation must include productive, well-located land. With land reform, there is a need for agrarian reform. Both must be framed to redress national and social grievances, with short and medium term policies being guided by this long-term objective.

The state has a key role to play in land and agrarian reform. It must exercise its responsibilities subject to democratic control, with rural people playing a central role in determining policy. Every effort must be made to marry national interest with local needs and aspirations.

Without adequate reform policies, it is difficult to envisage how people will be assured a meaningful existence on the land. Without that, the already extreme pressures to leave the land will only intensify, with serious political and economic consequences for all.

References

- Dolny H., *The land should be shared among those who work it*, unpublished, 1989.
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Angola**Government-UNITA Talks Begin in Lisbon 28 Apr***MB2804120890 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
1200 GMT 28 Apr 90*

[Text] We would like to inform our esteemed listeners that talks between the Angolan Government and UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] began in Lisbon, the Portuguese capital, today.

Portuguese Official on Peace Talks*MB2804125390 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
1211 GMT 27 Apr 90*

[Report by Lisbon correspondent Telmo Augusto]

[Text] We have important news: Durao Barroso, Portuguese secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, held a news conference in the Portuguese capital this morning that focused on the beginning of direct contacts between the Angolan Government and UNITA.

Meanwhile, colleague (Junual Goncalves) is here with us after just having participated in a Radio [name indistinct] roundtable attended by Mendes de Carvalho, Angolan ambassador to the GDR, and Norberto Castro, one of the UNITA spokesmen in Lisbon.

(Junual Goncalves) will now report on the direct Angolan Government-UNITA talks:

[Begin recording] [(Goncalves)] Good afternoon to Radio Angola listeners nationwide. Portuguese Secretary of State Durao Barroso has announced the Angolan Government and UNITA met in Evora, in southern Portugal, on 24 and 25 April. Durao Barroso said these direct talks were held at the request of both sides.

A secret agenda and timetable were drawn up on the aforementioned meeting. Durao Barroso was extremely careful: first, he did not reveal the level of the delegations meeting in Evora; second, he disclosed neither the date nor the venue of the next contact; and third, he said the process will be long and will still take some time.

Although he stressed there is not yet a cease-fire accord, he did say that some steps have been taken forward—he did not specify which steps—and that a dynamic process has been launched.

Angolan Foreign Minister Pedro de Castro van Dunem Loy is currently meeting with Engineer Jorge Sampaio, Portuguese Social Party secretary general.

[Augusto] (Junual Goncalves), you attended the news conference this morning. What do you think will happen in the short term?

[(Goncalves)] I think contacts will continue over the short term. We know neither the date nor the venue, but

it will probably not happen in Portugal. It will probably be some country that is not European.

Clearly, a dynamic process has begun, as the Portuguese secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation said, and this dynamic process [words indistinct] the Congress of Angolan Cadres Abroad. In addition to its technical and [word indistinct] nature, it brought together people of different political perceptions. It is now just a matter of time.

[Augusto] Thank you very much. [end recording]

The Congress of Angolan Cadres Abroad is scheduled to end today. We do not yet know what its findings will be. However, we all agree that people in Lisbon have managed to talk, and this may serve as background to many other things.

Further on Official's Comments*MB2904060890 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
2200 GMT 28 Apr 90*

[Text] The Angolan Government and UNITA held direct talks in Evora, Portugal on 24 and 25 April. Durao Barroso, Portuguese secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, announced this, adding that this first round of talks had achieved satisfactory results. He said there was, however, one issue that had caused difficulty: UNITA recognizes the Angolan state but not its legal instruments.

Without specifying who represented the two sides, Durao Barroso stated that the cease-fire problem was not discussed.

UNITA Claims Responsibility for Luanda Outage*MB2704192790 (Clandestine) KUP in English
to Southern and Central Africa 1910 GMT 27 Apr 90*

[Text] [Words indistinct] the MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] (?insists) on the continuation of war, UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] Armed Forces-FALA [Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola] has the right to defend itself of well as to protect the defenceless population.

And in response to MPLA provocations, our actions will be felt where it pains most.

Luanda province. From 17:00 hours on April 25 to 7:15 hours on April 26, our military units destroyed 25 electricity poles in between Dondo/Zenza do Itombe causing blackout to the capital city.

Malange Province. On April 25, our forces cut the electrical energy supply system of Malange town in compliance with progressive programme for execution. Malange is also without lights.

On the same day, our forces shattered an enemy battalion that had been flown to save MPLA troops at

Massango situated north of Malange city. An MPLA army Lieutenant Joao Cabral chief of military operations of that battalion was taken prisoner while 16 others were killed.

Moxico Province. During the April 24 battle at Lumege post, our forces killed 24 MPLA troops among them Captain Vieira Dias commandant of Lumege sector. MPLA's Sergeant Vasco Zango Eduardo of the general logistics directorate was captured, while 63 AK rifles five RPK's, three RPG-7's, 43 grenades and five ammunition boxes of 7.62 mm were seized.

Huambo Province. On April 24 at 16:52 hrs, our forces ambushed an enemy convoy attempting to re-occupy Sambo town for the 4th time. After an hour and a quarter of battle which took place between Vila Nova and Sambo, our forces routed the convoy in which two BTR-60's-pd, two BMP-1's, six cargo trucks, one grenade launcher-AGS-17 were destroyed while three grenade launchers AGS-17's were seized.

Our country free or death
United we will win
Jamba, bastion of Angola resistance 26/04/90
Armed forces chief of staff
Arlindo Chenda Pena Ben Ben - General.

Power Sabotage Said Extensive

MB2704200390 *Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese*
1900 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] A source close to repairs on the power lines supplying electricity to Luanda told ANGOP today that the sabotage operation carried out by UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] gangs has caused more damage than previously reported. In addition to the two towers reported yesterday, 24 others were damaged.

The source noted that all necessary means have been mobilized so that repair on the power lines and resumption of electricity to Luanda will be carried out as soon as possible. All efforts are being made to normalize the situation, and residents are urged to realize the importance of the event and consume energy sparingly.

Further information on the progress of repair works will be disclosed in due course.

Further on Power Line 'Sabotage'

LD2804191990 *Lisbon International Service*
in Portuguese 1200 GMT 28 Apr 90

[Text] UNITA issued a communique in Lisbon today claiming responsibility for the acts of sabotage that have cut off electricity supplies to the cities of Luanda and Malange. It also claims to have inflicted heavy casualties on the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola [MPLA] in the last few days.

Fernanda Moutinho has more details on the power cuts in Luanda and Malange:

[Moutinho] The details are that Luanda is still without electricity as a result of UNITA sabotage in the region of Cassoalala, 160 km from the capital, and there is no indication as to when supplies will be restored. A technician involved in the repair work said this was the largest act of sabotage yet against the 200-km power line that supplies Luanda with electricity. An eye witness said that a total of 26 electricity towers had been brought down, half of which were on line and the other half in reserve, along a length of 52 km of the supply line.

A spokesman for the electricity company in Luanda today declined to estimate how long it will take to restore supplies.

UNITA Reports Military Situation on 28 Apr

MB2904195490 *(Clandestine) KUP in English to Southern and Central Africa* 1900 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Text] [No dateline as received] 1. At the Caiundo Front, the enemy continues on the offensive towards the southern frontier, but our forces are determined to upset all MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] military plans.

2. In battles carried out April 28 in the areas of Topa, 28 kms south of Caiundo, our forces destroyed three BMP-1 armored cars and two cargo trucks and killed 26 MPLA troops.

3. At the Mavinga front, an MPLA 4th grouping supply convoy was attacked south of Dinde Lagoon. Our forces destroyed three BMP-1 armored cars, one truck and one fuel tanker. The convoy has been paralysed at the same position.

4. At around 2:00 hours April 28, our forces destroyed the Chikava River Bridge, along the road which connects the town of Cuito in Bie and Cambandua.

5. Time is proving to the MPLA that UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] defends the cause of all Angolan people. Our country will only know peace the time MPLA leaders will embark on direct and honest negotiations between UNITA and the MPLA.

Office of the chief of staff,

Assistance chief of military intelligence Zacarias Mundombe, Brigadier.

Commentary Emphasizes Need for Peace Talks

MB2904114890 *(Clandestine) Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Southern and Central Africa* 1120 GMT 29 Apr 90

[Commentary: "Platform for National Reconciliation in Angola"]

[Text] Who can bring peace to our country? UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] has to be a central element [words indistinct] that we do

not accept. We in UNITA already have wide experience from several rounds of talks with the MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] during the first national liberation war and at the Mombasa, [name indistinct], Luso, Kinshasa, Alvor, and Gbadolite conferences.

We want to continue talking. Let the MPLA issue a declaration that it is willing to find a peaceful solution together with us. If the MPLA decides to continue its policy of integrating UNITA members [words indistinct] special treatment to Comrade President Dr. Jonas Savimbi and calling their own brothers puppets, it is wasting time. The MPLA is shouting to every corner that is determined to enter direct negotiations with UNITA. Meanwhile, it is launching yet another offensive from Caiundo in the direction of Savate.

This is incoherent, irresponsible, militarist, and antipatriotic behavior.

UNITA is not divided because no one has the strength to divide it. UNITA is not alone. After 15 years of resistance against Soviet-Cuban expansionism, we have become stronger in our unity, positions, openness to dialogue, intervention in southern African affairs, logical thinking, and in our behavior as Angolan patriots.

In these 15 years we have created an internal [word indistinct] force in the political, military, and administrative fields to shatter all the MPLA's illusions that it could impose a military situation on the Angolan people, and to force the MPLA to talk with us.

The Angolan people deserve peace. UNITA is aware of its historic role and believes it will be a determining factor for peace in our country, regardless of the time this may take.

(?Let the MPLA support this). Let UNITA defend (?the people). With UNITA, the fatherland is not an item for discussion. UNITA defends the fatherland.

Mozambique

* Old Equipment Hampers Nampula Water System

90AF0039D Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese
7 Mar 90 p 3

[Text] The Nampula Water Company is again experiencing a problem with diminished capacity in the production, treatment, and distribution of water to citizens, because of the deterioration of equipment that was installed 30 years ago and has not been maintained or replaced on a regular basis.

Bernardo May-May, the company director, said that about 50 percent of the water captured and treated is lost every day because of leaks in the pipes. At this time, the conduit is sitting with 1.5 meters of its diameter exposed above ground level, because of erosion.

The water supply system was designed to serve the residents of the cement zone and not the individual pipelines that have been observed since national independence.

Director May-May also lamented the carelessness, if not negligence, of some residents of the suburban zones, who do not comply with the regulations governing the precious water supply.

"Many times people have cut the pipes, even when they are full, to get water. In recent times the city has had a problem with water pressure, particularly in buildings," said the official, adding that the political structures in the various districts are already aware of this situation.

The dam where the water for the city is captured is about 10 km away and, according to the director, communication to and from the central services of the company has been difficult, although there is an automatic telephone. According to May-May, it would be more practical to install a radio communications system.

Oddly enough, in order to function, the Nampula Water Company must have power and the Mozambique Electric Power Company, another company that was born of the dismantling of SMAE [not further expanded], needs water.

However, the two companies have not been 100-percent operational, since Nampula City has had many problems with a shortage of both power and water.

Speaking about the problems with communication, director May-May told us that "sometimes we do not know if there is a breakdown in the equipment or if it is a matter of a power shortage at the dam, even though we have an automatic phone. So we need to install a radio system, and for that we must have foreign assistance."

The dam has been a tourist attraction since colonial times. It has a restaurant, a swimming pool and a restful garden.

The Nampula Water Company workers are employed primarily at the dam, in water distribution and in maintenance.

Zimbabwe

* Wankie Colliery Output Increases Slightly

34000510A Harare THE FINANCIAL GAZETTE
in English 9 Mar 90 p 1

[Excerpt] Despite the acute transport problems faced by Zimbabwe's only coal mine during 1989, coal sales at Wankie Colliery Company [WCC] managed to rise marginally, from 4.3m tonnes in 1989 to 4.9m tonnes in 1990 to 4.5m tonnes for the year ended February, 1990.

While sales of Hwange Power Station (HPS) coal dropped by 6.3 percent from 2m tonnes in 1989, sales of WCC coal—comprising dry and washed grades and

coking coal—rose by 10 percent from 2.2m tonnes to 2.5m tonnes, according to figures released to the GAZETTE this week at the colliery.

As at the end of October, 1989, total revenue amounted to \$91.7m, of which \$74.3m was in respect of coal sales, \$16.5m from coke sales, and \$862,851 representing revenue from the sale of by-products.

WCC general manager, Mr Obediah Bwerinofa, said that despite the problems associated with the railway wagon shortages, and the consequent cash flow problems, the results were achieved through financial discipline and stringent cost-cutting.

However, he said, the colliery could not continue to operate on a shoe-string budget, and needed to continue its capital replacement and new capital investment programme.

Mr Bwerinofa, whose company last year took over the management contract of WCC from Anglo American Company—which holds 19 percent of the colliery—said in an interview that since the recent appointment of a special Task Force by President Robert Mugabe, there had been some significant changes within the NRZ [National Railways of Zimbabwe], and consequently there has been improved movement of coal, particularly in the last two months.

Because of the adoption of certain by-passing methods called cross-trippers by the NRZ, there has been increased turn around, enabling more locomotives to be channelled to Thompson Junction.

In January this year, WCC had record coal sales of 254,000 tonnes, but sales to Wankie Power Station were not very high. This created a problem because power station grade coal had to be stockpiled because of the technical problems being faced by Zesa at the power station. WCC was not designed to stockpile. The stockpile currently sits at 72,000 tonnes, and this created the danger of spontaneous combustion.

In the field of exports, he said these had been restricted to Zambia and Zaire, primarily because of the geographical location of WCC to the sea transport routes.

Approximately 4,000 tonnes of coal and 6,000 tonnes of coke have been exported to Zaire, monthly while about 3,000 tonnes of coke have been exported to Zambia. For the year ending 1989, export revenues amounted to between \$18m to \$20m.

Following the closure of the mine's own power station, which has meant that the entire town is now being supplied by Zesa [Zimbabwe Electric Supply Authority]. Mr Bwerinofa said most of the machinery and equipment had now been removed.

Turbine and generator sets have been sold to Hippo Valley and to a South African mine. [passage omitted]

* 11-Percent Cost of Living Increase Reported

34000510B Harare THE FINANCIAL GAZETTE
in English 2 Mar 90 p 22

[Text] The cost of living for higher-income urban families increased by approximately 11 percent throughout 1989, while for the lower income group overall prices went up by 13.3 percent, according to consumer price index figures from the Central Statistical Office [CSO].

The CSO figures—which have been criticised for reflecting “what prices should be rather than what they are” by local economists—also show that throughout 1988, the increase for higher and lower-income families were 6.4 percent and 7.4 percent respectively.

During 1989, the largest increase faced by the higher-income urban group was that for clothing, whose costs rose by 15.5 percent, followed by the cost of foodstuffs, which went up by 12.5 percent and prices paid for household stores, which increased by 12.4 percent.

Fuel and light charges went up by 12 percent, while domestic workers' wages rose 11.4 percent, vehicle expenses went up by 9 percent and drink/tobacco costs rose by 8 percent. Rent and rates increased by 6 percent, while miscellaneous costs rose by 10.8 percent.

During December, 1989 alone, the index rose by 1.3 percent with the main contributors being prices paid for cakes, rice, fresh milk, ice-cream, pork, fresh fruits, spirits, minerals, clothing and footwear, rent, building repairs, gas, furniture, and doctors' fees. However, potatoes dropped in price.

For the lower-income group, the highest increase in cost was for rent, fuel, and light charges, which rose by 15.4 percent, followed by foodstuffs which went up 24.6 percent, and prices paid for clothing and footwear, which went up by 11.5 percent.

The group also paid 8.2 percent more for household stores, 7.5 percent for rent and tobacco, while transport costs rose by 3 percent. Miscellaneous costs went up by 3 percent. In the month of December, the index rose by 1.3 percent, the main contributors to the increase being prices of fresh milk, rice, opaque beer, minerals, school uniforms, train fares, and fresh fruits.

* Batoka Gorge Dam Preparations Continue

34000510C Harare THE FINANCIAL GAZETTE
in English 9 Mar 90 p 6

[Excerpts] Pre-qualification tender notices for the feasibility report of the \$2.5 billion Batoka Gorge project are to be invited shortly and submissions will be expected by April 10, this year, an official of the Zimbabwe River Authority (ZRA) told the GAZETTE last week.

This will be the third stage in the preliminary work leading to the construction of what will be Africa's highest dam, with a height of 196m and a holding capacity of two billion cubic metres, it is provisionally

estimated that Batoka will generate 1,600 megawatts of power, compared to Kariba's installed capacity of 1,266 megawatts for both Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The first preliminary contract, for site exploration, was awarded in July last year to K W Blasting, and is expected to be complete by October this year. The contract was worth \$11.5m.

At the same time, the specialist contract was awarded, for the testing of rock soundness and exploration of the foundations. This work is also expected to be complete by October. [passage omitted]

The latest estimate given about a month ago by UK-based consulting engineers, Alexander Gibb, shows that the project will cost 1,000m£ (Z\$2.5 billion). Funding for the project has been negotiated through Zesa, but the Council of Ministers still has to clear the implementation phase of the project. Expenditure for the project is on a 50-50 basis between Zimbabwe and Zambia.

The ZRA official said the Lake on Batoka Gorge would almost touch the downstream of Victoria Falls, and this could be an added attraction for tourists.

* Details of World Bank Loan Projects Given

34000510D Harare THE FINANCIAL GAZETTE
in English 9 Mar 90 p 3

[Excerpts] The World Bank will this year provide loan facilities of over US\$146m towards three major projects for Zimbabwe's forestry, and urban sectors. One loan agreement, for the agricultural industry, has already been signed, while those for the urban and forestry projects will be signed in March and May, respectively.

The loans, which are for the second phases of each of the three sectoral projects, are expected to run for five years, according to the Bank's deputy resident representative in Zimbabwe, Mr Peter Pohland.

The first is a US\$117m agricultural credit and export promotion programme, for which the Bank has contributed US\$36.3m, aimed at increasing food production, raise rural incomes and boost export earnings under the programme, which is expected to benefit 44,000 small-holders and commercial farmers.

The Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC) and the Cotton Marketing Board (CMB) will implement the project. The AFC will carry out a pilot programme to train and organise farmer groups to serve as channels for credit and marketing services. The loan will also finance studies of the cotton subsector, and horticultural export marketing. Mr Pohland said some of the funds would be used for the construction of ginneries for the CMB.

The forestry project II, for which the bank will provide US\$30m, will be implemented over seven years, and comprises a rural afforestation component, a wildlife and forest grazing scheme for the conservation of natural

resources through financing pilot schemes in participatory forest resource management.

It also involves a commercial forestry programme for increasing efficiency in wood processing by financing the replacement of equipment and the rehabilitation of sawmills for the Forestry Commission. It will also provide a small and medium-scale enterprises fund for private firms in the industry to finance equipment and spare parts procurement. [passage omitted]

The city services and housing project, costing a total of US\$580m will support the continued self-sufficiency of urban authorities, which will receive sub-sector loans to develop infrastructure water and sewerage systems, roads and drainage. About 70 percent of the project programme will concentrate on housing and housing-related services to provide for 45,000 land units, including electricity connections.

Technical assistance and training in financial management will also be provided to national and local government agencies to assist in determining the most cost-effective means of providing housing and city services.

The project will aim to ensure that financing is done on a full-cost recovery basis, including securing long-term mortgage finance provided by private agencies.

The project is also supported by private lending institutions (US\$242m) and the Zimbabwe Government (US\$234m). Additional funding is expected from the Federal Republic of Germany (US\$21m), and Sida [Swedish International Development Authority] (US\$3m).

* Development Bank To Receive \$13.75 Million

34000510E Harare THE FINANCIAL GAZETTE
in English 9 Mar 90 p 3

[Text] The African Development Bank (ADB) in conjunction with the African Development Fund (ADF) have agreed to provide a line of credit worth US\$13.75 million to the Zimbabwe Development Bank (ZDB).

The ADB loan of US\$13.4 million is for 20 years including a grace period of five years at an interest rate of 7.4 percent per annum on the amount disbursed and outstanding. The ADF grant of US\$610,000 will be free, none reimbursable and bears no interest or any other financial charges.

The line of credit is to provide ZDB with foreign exchange to finance the foreign components of the costs of a number of new-small and medium-scale industrial enterprises. It will also finance the rehabilitation, modernisation or expansion of a number of existing industrial enterprises.

All the sub-projects to be financed with the proceeds of the line of credit will be selected by the ZDB and approved by the ADB.

Foreign exchange will also be provided for the purchase of spare parts and imported raw materials for a limited period of time and for technical assistance where it is needed for both new and rehabilitation projects.

The new line of credit provides for the creation of an entrepreneur development fund which will be used as a project preparation facility for projects sponsored by emerging business persons and for training these entrepreneurs so that they can successfully implement their projects as well as manage their enterprises.

This project will be the twelfth ADB group operation in Zimbabwe, representing a total commitment of US\$178.45 million from ADB resources and US\$44.6 million from ADF resources.

* Zimbabwe United Movement Manifesto Details

34000511A Harare THE HERALD in English
6 Mar 90 p 3

[Text] Zimbabwe should not have its troops in Mozambique because the conflict in that country is purely a domestic issue, the Zimbabwe United Movement [Zum] says in its 38-page election manifesto.

"Zimbabwe ought not to have its troops in Mozambique where such presence is, in fact, obstructing a process towards peace in that vital neighbouring country.

"Zimbabwe is not at war with any country. There are no chances whatsoever that it will be drawn into a war if given the one guarantee of a leadership which thinks in harmony with the rest of the world," says the manifesto released to THE HERALD yesterday.

Entitled Towards a Democratic Zimbabwe, the election manifesto says Zum advocates a multi-party democracy.

Zum was formed in April last year. It is led by Cde Edgar Tekere and it says that a multi-party democracy will facilitate the competition of ideas on public policy and how society can achieve its goals.

The four-party manifesto, signed by Cde Takere in his capacity as party national chairman, covers the philosophy and structure of the party, the national economy and society as a whole.

The manifesto proposes the maintenance of the bio-cameral legislative system which allows for the House of Assembly (the Lower House) and the Senate (the Upper House).

The party believes in a mixed economy characterised by free enterprise but with room for state participation only when and where the free enterprise system is unable to provide the required service.

On the land question, the party proposes to set up a commission of inquiry to examine the land issue with a view to advising the Government on a viable and coherent land policy.

A Zum government, says the manifesto, will promote the establishment of agro-industries. A strategy of mixed ownership of land will be encouraged and cooperatives, peasant farming units and private commercial farms will be promoted.

The manifesto adds that a Zum government would strive to reduce the budget deficit and the rate of taxation through substantial cuts in public expenditure through a reduction of the present huge bureaucracy.

It also says that it would take steps to reduce the tax burden on taxpayers, by removing all tax on essential food items; by reducing sales tax on other non-luxury commodities; by drastically reducing income tax for all categories, induce individuals' savings and investment; while to have the intended effect, bonuses would be taxed.

It says that to encourage local and foreign investors, corporate taxation would be drastically reduced.

Zum says that because parastatals are an important prerequisite for meaningful national development, "they are required to be highly efficient and run on sound established principles".

To ensure adequate foreign currency allocation, a Zum government will strive to rationalise the allocation of foreign currency by creating a foreign currency allocation committee which would comprise the major users of foreign currency and relevant sectoral ministries.

On education, the party says a Zum government will encourage expansion of elitist private schools, private colleges and universities.

On religion, the family, the party and State, Zum says that Zanu (PF) [Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front]'s atheistic posture has led to the ascendancy in Zimbabwe of social ideologists who ignore and trample upon freedom of conscience and man's right to free religious worship, thus threatening to deny "our people the spiritual opportunity for self-renewal".

Zimbabwe's news media—the radio, television and daily newspapers—the manifesto says, have been "practically turned into propaganda organs of one political party".

To correct this imbalance, Zum advocates the privatisation of the Press in order to achieve and maintain Press freedom.

While it states its opposition to a one-party state, Zum says that the unity between Zanu [Zimbabwe African National Union] and Zapu [Zimbabwe African People's Union] is artificial and that it is not working. It detests the existence of the ministries of Political Affairs, Youth, Sport and Culture and advocates that they disband.

Zum says it is against the system of having an Executive President and wants a return to a titular president, who acts through a prime minister and a Cabinet of ministers responsible to Parliament.

A Zim government would do away with provincial governors, preferring senator chiefs to be the provincial leaders, Zim also is against the idea of having the Attorney-General as a member of the Cabinet.

*** Bank Official Quashes Devaluation Rumor**

34000511C Harare THE HERALD-BUSINESS
HERALD in English 15 Mar 90 p 1

[Article by Jethro Goko: "No Dollar Devaluation"]

[Text] The Governor of the Reserve Bank, Dr Kombo Moyana, this week quashed growing speculation about a major devaluation of the Zimbabwean dollar to support trade liberalisation.

He also strongly criticised those who had tried to cash in on the devaluation rumours by delaying exports or the repatriation of export earnings, which had significantly affected inflows of foreign exchange.

Speaking at the annual general meeting of the Mashonaland Chamber of Industries held in Harare on Monday, Dr Moyana said the situation whereby some companies were deliberately holding on to export earnings undermined Zimbabwe's ability to initiate trade liberalisation.

This was because the first instalment of external resources for financing resources for financing trade liberalisation would have to be put up-front by the Government as an encouragement for international financial institutions to come aboard.

"I would therefore like to assure you that the management of our exchange rate has not and will not change as the trade liberalisation process is implemented," he said.

Discussing the framework of the impending trade liberalisation programme, he said it would be flexible and would be implemented on a gradual, phased and selective basis.

What was envisaged was that over a period of four to five years, some inputs and outputs would be put on to the Open General Import Licensing system (OGIL)—with only some limited administrative mechanisms retained to cater for special categories.

As the Government wanted to protect local industry, the introduction of more external competition would be effected through a deliberate and phased approach in order to ensure that local industry would have been equipped properly beforehand to hold its own in a new competitive environment.

"Therefore, free competition on the Zimbabwean market will be done when and where constraints facing domestic industry have been reduced or eliminated," he said.

A feature of the trade liberalisation programme would be a visible increase in imports—currently controlled through the foreign exchange allocation system.

The control of the volume of imports under trade liberalisation to prevent Zimbabwe from being swamped, could be achieved either by using an increase in tariffs to regulate the flow of goods or using the exchange rate mechanism.

The route that Zimbabwe would take to control import demand had been agreed on after examining the advantages and disadvantages, and practicalities of the situation. The Government would use a tariff-based system which would be complemented by the use of other discretionary controls on imports.

"The management of the exchange rate will thus continue to be guided by the need to improve the competitiveness of the export sectors, vis-a-vis the relative cost of production between us and our trading partners, and competitive position for our exports in third markets," he said.

Liberia

Foreigners Advised To Leave; Transport Threatened

AB2704175190 London BBC World Service in English
1615 GMT 27 April 90

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] As Charles Taylor's rebels in Liberia close in on the capital in Monrovia, it seems quite an exodus is beginning. There are reports of a scramble by foreign nationals trying to get out of the country on the advice of their embassies. The whole thing could be complicated by a warning from the rebels that because a Taiwanese ship in Liberian waters is carrying armaments to Samuel Doe's Government, they will fire on any ship or aircraft suspected of carrying arms.

On the line, Elizabeth Ohene asked Emmanuel Bowier, the minister of information, what he made of the rush by foreigners to leave Liberia.

[Begin recording] [Bowier] Well, our government believes in the free movement of people. These people came here in mass from various countries to engage in business, to engage in diplomatic practices, to engage in voluntary work, and if they want to leave at this time, they have a right to do so.

[Ohene] Do you find their leaving thoroughly depressing then?

[Bowier] No, not at all. We still have thousands of foreign nationals here living in Liberia, who have made their lives here. They are staying here, they are not going. There is nothing depressing when a stranger comes to visit you and he decides that he is leaving because he hears that there is somebody in your house making noise. Then you just allow him to leave and after the noise he will return.

[Ohene] Some people obviously think that the airport is about to close...

[Bowier, interrupting] The airport is not about to close. The airport is open and will remain open. We have not even closed any of the borders. The airport is not about to close, so I do not know where those people got the information from.

[Ohene] Well, the rebels are now threatening, they say, to actually shoot down airplanes or any ship that might be coming into Liberia water...

[Bowier, interrupting] Well, we have not heard of that. Maybe they told you that, and if they told you that, I am sure the Government of Liberia has its own way of protecting lives and properties, and the military will take care of that.

[Ohene] One specific claim that the rebels are making is that there is a Taiwanese boat docking at the port,

carrying arms for the government, which they are threatening to blow up. Now, is there a Taiwanese boat docked in your port?

[Bowier] We have several boats and ships in our ports and we have many ports along the coast. I cannot say, whether there is a Taiwanese boat here or not. If there is a Taiwanese boat here, it has the right to be here. Whether it is carrying arms, no, that is not true. [end recording]

Minister Calls Exodus 'Hasty'

AB2704185090 Paris AFP in English 1810 GMT
27 Apr 90

[Text] Monrovia, April 27 (AFP)—A mass exodus of expatriates from rebellion-hit Liberia is "hasty" and embassy warnings to their citizens to evacuate the West African country can only cause alarm. Liberian acting Foreign Minister George Wallace said on state radio here Friday.

The radio said Mr. Wallace met with the heads of foreign missions accredited here Thursday and assured them that the government was doing everything to contain a rebel incursion launched December 24 against the regime of President Samuel Doe.

The British Foreign Office in London Friday strongly advised the 200 British citizens to leave Liberia because of the rebels' ongoing bid to topple the government.

A British Embassy spokesman said they have advised all their citizens to leave Liberia in the "shortest possible time" or inform the embassy of their whereabouts if they planned to leave at a later date.

A U.S. State Department communique released here Thursday advised Americans planning to travel to Liberia to reconsider, while those in the country have been warned against travel outside of the capital.

Non-essential staff as well as dependants and families of essential staff were given the liberty to return home, the U.S. statement said.

Independent press reports here said about 5,000 U.S. citizens would leave shortly and that the Peace Corps may close its office.

The U.S., British, and Italian Embassies had earlier advised all citizens living in the troubled northeastern Nimba County where fighting between the rebels and government troops has been raging to leave the area.

Protestant missionary sources in Abidjan told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE Friday that the last of their colleagues will have left Liberia by next week.

A U.S. missionary and his British wife were killed in the fighting last month. Another U.S. citizen died after being shot by Liberian troops at a road block in Monrovia.

People from Ivory Coast, Guinea and Sierra Leone living in Liberia are meanwhile said to have collected their

belongings and travelled to the country's major cities to make plans to leave the country.

Many had put their houses up for sale, independent sources said.

Diplomats and other informed sources said the rebels led by former senior civil servant Charles Taylor have gained the upper hand in the fighting, which reportedly has spread out of Nimba County to within two hours of the capital.

Reliable sources said the rebels are just outside of the key iron ore port of Buchanan and could attack the city within days.

Mr Doe, who seized power in a bloody coup in April 1980, on Wednesday gave the rebels two weeks to lay down their arms or be "wiped out" by Liberian troops.

In response, Mr Taylor told the British Broadcasting Corporation Thursday that President Doe didn't have "the military muscle to do anything" and that his forces were poorly trained with inadequate firepower.

Independent sources say more than 1,000 people, including civilians, have died in the fighting, which has forced between 300,000 and 350,000 Liberians from their homes. Many have taken refuge in Ivory Coast and Guinea.

In a separate development, Peter Jon De Vos had been appointed U.S. ambassador to Liberia, replacing James K. Bishop, who have been assigned to Somalia, the U.S. Information Service announced here Friday.

Mr De Vos has served as principal deputy assistant secretary of State for the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and scientific affairs since 1989 and has also served as ambassador to Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde.

U.K. Advises Citizens to Leave

*AB2804113290 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English
2000 GMT 27 Apr 90*

[Text] Britain has again advised all its citizens living in Liberia to leave the country because of fighting between rebels and government forces. A Foreign Office spokesman in London is quoted by the BBC as saying British Airways will put on extra flights from Monrovia to London on Sunday. He said there was a strong possibility that scheduled flights might not continue, but he gave no details. The United States has also recommended that its citizens leave Liberia.

No French 'Evacuation Order'

*AB2904194290 Paris AFP in French 1159 GMT
29 Apr 90*

[Text] Paris, 29 Apr (AFP)—The French Embassy in Liberia is monitoring the situation and taking all necessary security measures, but no evacuation order concerning French nationals has been given by Paris, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced today. Some 120 French nationals, including embassy personnel and those with double citizenship—French and Lebanese—reside in Liberia, where a rebellion against President Samuel Doe's regime has been raging for four months now.

(The British Foreign Office has "strongly" advised 200 Britons living in Liberia to leave, urging them to take a special British Airways flight to London scheduled for today.

The United States, which has advised its nationals not to make any "unnecessary" trips to Monrovia, has so far taken no measures to evacuate about 5,000 American citizens residing in Liberia.)

'Several Hundred' Leave

*AB2904184190 London BBC World Service in English
1709 GMT 29 Apr 90*

[Text] Several hundred foreign nationals have left Liberia this weekend following warnings from their governments about the deteriorating situation there. Two extra flights were laid on yesterday and today, mainly for British, Commonwealth, and American citizens.

Clashes have been intensified recently between government troops and rebel forces who have expanded the area under their control. Reports from Liberia say the military situation has not changed in the past week. The rebels are consolidating their positions and are said to be within 20 miles of the port of Buchanan. There are reports of a number of clashes inland around a big rubber plantation.

The capital, Monrovia, is reported to be quiet. The rebels of the national Patriotic Front of Liberia began their attacks on government positions in Nimba County in the northeast of the country in December. The BBC West Africa correspondent says army reprisals against villages in the region have increased support for the rebels.

Foreign Schools To Close Early

*AB3004125290 Paris AFP in English 1235 GMT
30 Apr 90*

[Text] Monrovia, April 30 (AFP)—Foreign schools on Monday were preparing to close weeks ahead of schedule as hundreds of expatriates continued their exodus out of Liberia for fear of a rebel attack on the capital.

The departure of foreign nationals prompted the American Cooperative School System (ACS) to close, ending the school year last Friday, while the ELWA school, run by the Protestant Sudan Interior Mission, is expected to close this week, six weeks ahead of schedule.

The French and British schools are also expected to shut down this week, some four to six weeks ahead of schedule.

Meanwhile, Monrovia was calm Monday with people moving about freely. Residents, however, were seen buying up large quantities of food for fear of shortages.

Rebels, led by former civil servant Charles Taylor, launched a bid to unseat President Samuel Doe on December 24.

Mr. Taylor, 42, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE on Saturday that insurgents had advanced to within two hours of Monrovia and could strike here at any time.

He said government troops have killed between 3,000 and 5,000 civilians in the fighting in Nimba County. The rebel leader added that his 3,000 men have killed 3,000 soldiers while some 300 to 500 insurgents of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia had been killed.

Hundreds of U.S. and British citizens left from Roberts International Airport, 50 kilometers (30 miles) from here at the weekend for fear of continued fighting between rebels and government troops.

The departure followed statements last week by the U.S. State Department and British Foreign Office advising their nationals to leave the country as soon as possible.

Many of the 5,000 Americans and 200 Britons living in Liberia had already left here by Monday. Special British Airways and U.S. flights were organized Saturday and Sunday to evacuate expatriates.

Some of the 234 foreigners aboard a British Airways flight which arrived in London late Sunday said it was only a matter of time before Mr. Doe's government falls to the rebels.

Swissair officials here said they were sending two Airbus planes to assist the evacuation effort.

Some Liberian businessmen and private citizens were also seen at the airport leaving the country.

The French Embassy here has not advised the 120 French nationals to leave the West African country, but warned them not to go out at night and to stock up on food and medical supplies.

Mr. Doe, who assumed power in a bloody coup on April 12, 1980, on Wednesday issued a two-week ultimatum for rebels to lay down their arms, threatening to wipe them out if they refused.

Mr. Taylor rejected it Saturday, saying he was about to march on Monrovia.

Taylor Claims Thousands Killed in Nimba County

*AB2804142290 Paris AFP in English 1355 GMT
28 Apr 90*

[Text] Abidjan, April 28 (AFP)—Government troops may have killed 3,000 or even as many as 5,000 civilians in Liberia's Nimba County, before anti-government rebels won control of the region, rebel leader Charles Taylor said Saturday.

Mr. Taylor, who telephoned AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE from an unidentified location said there were "skeletons, skulls, bones all over towns and villages that he (President Samuel Doe) has burned" in northeastern Liberia since the rebels launched a bid on December 24 to topple the Doe regime.

The 42-year-old rebel leader invited journalists and television crews into Nimba County, which he said was firmly under his control, to "show the world what that boy (Mr. Doe) did to that county."

He said journalists could enter Liberia through international borders, namely through neighboring Ivory Coast, because his forces were in control of the frontier.

Mr. Taylor added that passage into Liberia through Ivory Coast would depend on the permission of Ivorian border officials. He said his forces would welcome journalists on the other side of the border.

He also said his forces have killed some 3,000 government troops, while 300 to 500 of his men had died in the fighting.

The fighting has intensified in recent days, prompting U.S. and British embassies to advise their citizens to leave the country.

Independent sources in Monrovia said more than 1,000 people have died in the fighting. Between 300,000 and 300,000 [as received] Liberians have fled from their homes to escape the fighting, many of them crossing the border into Ivory Coast and Guinea.

Libya Denies Involvement With Rebels

*AB2804142990 Paris AFP in English 1403 GMT
28 Apr 90*

[Text] Monrovia, April 28 (AFP)—Liberian authorities have rejected Libya's denial of involvement with rebels fighting troops in Liberia's interior, saying Libyan leader Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi was noted for double standards.

Speaking on State Television late Friday, Information Minister Emmanuel Bowier showed a telex containing Tripoli's first denial of persistent accusations by Monrovia that it trained and supported the dissidents.

Rebels, led by former civil servant Charles Taylor, have been fighting in Nimba County since launching a bid to unseat President Samuel Doe on December 24.

But Mr. Bowier said it was difficult to believe the denial in the light of "documentary evidence" that supported Liberia's claims.

Meanwhile, Mr. Taylor, interviewed by AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE in Abidjan by telephone Saturday, denied Libya's involvement in the rebellion.

Mr. Taylor, who did not say from where he was calling, said he did not want Col. al-Qadhafi to take any credit for the rebel activities, adding that the only support he has received outside Liberia came from other Liberians.

He also denied repeated charges by the Liberian government that Ivory Coast and Burkina Faso aided the rebels.

Rebel Leader Gives Battle, Casualty Claims

AB2804171790 Paris AFP in French 1531 GMT
28 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Abidjan, 28 Apr (AFP)—Charles Taylor, the leader of the rebellion in Liberia, told AFP on Saturday that government troops have killed between 3,000 and 5,000 civilians in Nimba County following the insurrection against President Samuel Doe on 24 December 1989. [passage omitted]

Mr. Taylor, a 42-year old former top civil servant who has been sought by Liberian authorities since 1984 for embezzlement, maintained that nearly 3,000 Liberian Government troops have been killed during clashes with the rebels of his National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) and estimated the number of casualties within rebel ranks at between 300 and 500. These figures appear to be exaggerated, especially concerning the casualties among the ranks of the Liberian Army, observers believe. The Armed Forces of Liberia have a little over 6,000 troops, including all branches of the Armed Forces. Three battalions, including the Presidential Guard, are stationed in the Monrovia region, according to well-informed sources.

The latest results obtained by AFP from reliable sources said about 1,000 people have been killed since the fighting started and that nearly 150,000 Liberians have taken refuge in Ivory Coast and in Guinea, and more than 100,000 citizens of Nimba County have been evacuated by the authorities due to the threat of attacks from rebel groups.

Mr. Taylor stated that his men were in firm control of Nimba County and were deeply rooted in Bong County and in Grand Bassa County, where the Buchanan port is located, less than 100 km from Monrovia.

"We are also holding some strategic positions which we cannot disclose, but we can now block the capital if we want to," he stated.

Mr. Taylor confirmed the presence of rebel troops in the immediate environs of Buchanan, a port through which Nimba County's iron ore passes. Iron ore is Liberia's major resource. However, he stated that he did want to

attack the town. "This does not mean that we do not have the means to take it over within 30 minutes," he said.

He stated that the number of his fighters has now reached about 3,000 and pointed out that his "major problem now is the increasing number of people who want to join the movement. I could mobilize between 40,000 and 50,000 people in a month if I had the means," he stated.

Mr. Taylor stated that he did not intend to lay down arms. On 25 April, President Doe gave a two-week ultimatum to the rebels to lay down their arms, and warned that after this deadline, he would annihilate them.

"If there is someone that should go, it is President Doe. We are on our way to Monrovia. If he wants to stop us, let him do it," he stated further.

"I think that he (Samuel Doe) wants to flee... maybe to the United States or to Korea or to Taiwan, since he receives his weapons from Taiwan," Mr. Taylor also added. "We shall do everything to prevent him from leaving, because he is holding large sums of money in foreign exchange, and we want to recover this money," he concluded. [passage omitted]

Rebel Front Reportedly Seeks Vengeance

AB2804223590 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English
1709 GMT 28 Apr 90

[Text] Reports by the LIBERIAN NEWS AGENCY say the self-styled National Patriotic Front led by Mr. Charles Taylor has said that its motive for the Nimba incursion is to avenge the death of members of the old regime who were executed following the 1980 revolution. The agency quoted a story captioned Rebels Pledge To Vengeance published in the April edition of the SUNDAY CORRESPONDENT based in London, in which Mr. Taylor told journalist Mark Huband that his forces have pledged to avenge the deaths of members of the old regime.

Journalist Mark Huband of Britain was ambushed in the LIMCO train by the rebel forces early this month. However, at a press briefing yesterday, Information Minister Bowier said that the motive of the rebels had [words indistinct] of discord, destruction, chaos, and disunity. He noted that following the coup in 1980, several government officials were left untouched and added that President Doe did not seize power to ostracize anyone.

Life in Gbarnga Said 'Returned to Normal'

AB2904110890 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English
2210 GMT 28 Apr 90

[Text] Life in Gbarnga, Bong County, has returned to normal with over 80 percent of its citizens and residents who left the city as a result of rebel activities in nearby

Nimba County returning to their homes. The LIBERIAN NEWS AGENCY [LINA] correspondent in Gbarnga said many businesses, including shops and business centers for the general public are being (?combed) by people.

The returnees told LINA in separate interviews that they left the city following warnings that Gbarnga was to be attacked by rebels. They further said the (?companies) removed the [word indistinct] in Gbarnga without thinking twice, and this decision brought new hardship to their children who are residing along the Liberia-Guinea border.

Meanwhile, Superintendent Venecious Vorkpor has reiterated his appeal to citizens and residents of Bong County who left their country to return home and go about their normal activities. They said nowhere is better than home, and pointed out that the security network in the country was doing everything possible to protect the lives and property of citizens and residents.

Minister Displays Letter Asking for Rebel Aid

AB2704225890 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English
2210 GMT 27 Apr 90

[Text] Information Minister Emmanuel Bowier today displayed what he called a letter written by Helmut Johnson to a Richard Tolbert asking him for financial assistance to support rebels fighting government troops in Nimba County. According to the minister, in the letter, Mr. Johnson told Richard that the problem they had was to feed this large army without the benefit of a regular flow of funds. The letter also said that line commanders [word indistinct] in the rebel forces were illiterate and that they would only qualify for sergeants in sophisticated armies and not officers. Johnson said that it was a shame that all the educated people have left the fighting to the illiterate population. Richard Tolbert is the son of the late President Tolbert. He is now residing in the United States. In the letter, Mr. Johnson requested financial support from Mr. Tolbert through a man identified only as (Buckner) at the African Development Bank in Abidjan. The letter dated 22 March 1990 also quoted Helmut Johnson as saying that the fight is going to be in vain if all educated people are going to sit on the side. Mr. Johnson said he was very interested in bringing this war to a speedy conclusion and that he was convinced that a military approach will quickly bring their forces ahead on Mr. Doe. The letter carries the stamps from the Ivory Coast posted from Danane.

Also the self-styled National Patriotic Front, fighting government forces in Nimba county have said that its motives for the Nimba incursion is to avenge the death of the members of the old regime who were executed following the 1980 revolution. According to the LIBERIAN NEWS AGENCY quoting a story captioned, "Rebels' Pledge to Vengeance", published in the 15 April edition of the SUNDAY CORRESPONDENT based in London, Mr. Charles Taylor told Journalist Mark Huband, who was ambushed in [name indistinct] by

rebels earlier this month that his forces have pledged to avenge the death of members of the old regime.

Following a news conference today, Information Minister Emmanuel Bowier said that following the 1980 revolution several former government officials were left untouched and said that President Doe did not seize power to ostracize anyone.

Nimba, Grand Gedeh Citizens Meet on Conflict

AB3004135290 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English
0709 GMT 30 Apr 90

[Text] Nimba and Grand Gedeh Counties have reportedly formed a joint committee to explore the timely and peaceful resolution of the Nimba crisis and restore peace and calm to the nation. The committee made up of prominent citizens from the two counties, is quoted as saying that it has decided to take what it calls necessary actions to resolve the Nimba crisis occasioned by the armed incursion of rebels in Nimba County. The LIBERIAN NEWS AGENCY [LINA] quoting an Information Ministry release last evening, said the citizens have held and continue to hold consultations which, according to them, is a traditional Liberian way of resolving conflicts.

Nimba County' representative on the committee includes Dr. Joseph S. Goano, Senator David Tuweh, former Senator Jackson F. Doe, Health Minister Martha Sendolo-Belleh, Agriculture Minister Scott Toweh, Assistant Presidential Affairs Minister (Johnny Kpoh), and Mr. (John San). Grand Gedeh is being represented by Senator Joseph Samson, Representatives (Cyrus Cooper), (John Beh), (Phillip Dia), and Presidential Advisor (Gabriel Kpoka Hai) among others. LINA said sources close to the committee said other counties and religious leaders as well as prominent senior citizens have expressed interest in associating with the peace initiative. For his part, Information Minister Emmanuel Bowier has renewed his appeal for nationwide prayers for the peaceful resolution of the current conflict.

Paper Protests Government's 'Compliment'

AB2804185890 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English
1110 GMT 28 Apr 90

[Text] The DAILY OBSERVER newspaper has protested what it calls the unwholesome compliments meted out to the press for endeavoring to inform the Liberian people on the present crisis in the country. Many customers of the DAILY OBSERVER newspaper were caught off guard yesterday when, eager to find out what the paper's headline was, discovered a blank front-page DAILY OBSERVER. Many at first glance thought something had disastrously gone wrong at the printing press. But the editorial in yesterday's edition explained the blank front page.

In its editorial captioned: Stand By Me, the paper observed that during the last four months, the Liberian

press had been striving to give the public a true picture of what is taking place in the country. The editorial noted: We see this as our duty and responsibility so that the people and government may respond adequately to the danger on hand. But the paper regretted, adding it would seem we had been wrong and this has earned us an unwholesome compliment. [sentence as heard]

The DAILY OBSERVER newspaper then reaffirmed its commitment to the national interest, faithfulness to the truth, and strive to be objective and fair in the exercise in its duties.

It should be recalled that during his recent press conference, President Samuel Canyon Doe gave a stern warning to newsmen:

[Begin Doe recording] And I want to tell the public that it should not listen to these false rumors that are going around that the rebels are taking this area, the rebels are taking that area. And I know that we are fighting many wars, not only the Nimba war. The press, you the press have your own (?opinion on Nimba, too,) because you are not giving the people the real truth. We told you that that if there is anything not clear, get it cleared with the

Ministry of Information. The government issued a statement, and some of you have violated that statement. And if we grab anybody tomorrow, they say the president is this and the president is that. So I want to appeal to you. If you respect your constitutional rights, you must respect the rule of law. If you quote any story that is not true, we do not say you should not write, you can write from hell to heaven. But, if you quote any news that is not true, we will check it (?from today). We will check it. If say the rebels have taken a village, you and the soldiers will go to that village to make sure whether the rebels have taken that village, because you have got a way of telling lies to the people. Anything that you will say, you will have to verify it. Do you think that is human rights?

If you see a mansion around, I mean if you see rebels around a mansion or if you see a rebel in a mansion, write about it. But then you will be responsible to show the Liberian people the rebels. People are using this situation in Nimba to spoil our economy, to frighten the Liberian people, and to (?uphold) the rule of thieves. Anybody that will be caught, or if you write anything that will do with rebel activities in Nimba, be prepared that we will escort you there to Nimba. If you cannot prove it, you yourself, you are a rebel! [end recording]

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